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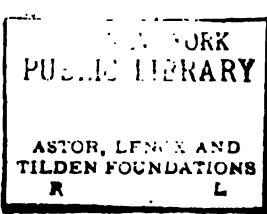














Charles I, a captive, playing his favourite game.

Sketch for picture. Copyright.  
Humphrey P. Dingley. 1893.

# TOUCHERS AND RUBS

ON

## YE ANCIENTE ROYALE GAME OF BOWLES:

*A SERIES OF NOTES, FACTS, RECORDS, AND COMMENTS,  
TOUCHING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAME  
OF BOWLS, FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO  
THE PRESENT DAY.*

BY

HUMPHREY J. DINGLEY, F.S.L.

WITH OVER SIXTY ILLUSTRATIONS SPECIALLY PREPARED  
FOR THIS WORK BY THE AUTHOR.

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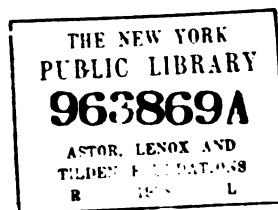
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TO

**SIR JOHN M. STIRLING-MAXWELL, BART.,**

**OF NETHER POLLOK,**

**HON. PRESIDENT OF TITWOOD BOWLING AND TENNIS CLUB,  
AND POLLOKSHAWS BOWLING CLUB,**

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**THE AUTHOR.**



## PREFATORY.



interest may have been passed unremarked by former writers, I have ventured to put my observations on record in this little volume.

Prefatorial notices, in manuals of the game, are more or less fragmentary; and while the matter herein may be not altogether new, I hope my brother bowlers will agree with the old Arabic proverb, which says, "Honour to the beginner, even though the follower does better."

In the words of the immortal William—

"I do beseech you  
To understand my purposes aright."

H. J. D.

DUNOON, January, 1893.

WHEN collating facts interesting to votaries of any game having its origin in the dim past, it is absolutely necessary to cover ground in some measure well trodden; but, as travellers along a road are not equally observant, and many points of

“Get your enemies to read your works,  
in order to mend them; for your friend  
is so much your second-self that he  
will judge, too like you.”—*Popk.*

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## INTRODUCTORY.

"We must speak by the card or  
Equivocation will undo us."

*Hamlet.*

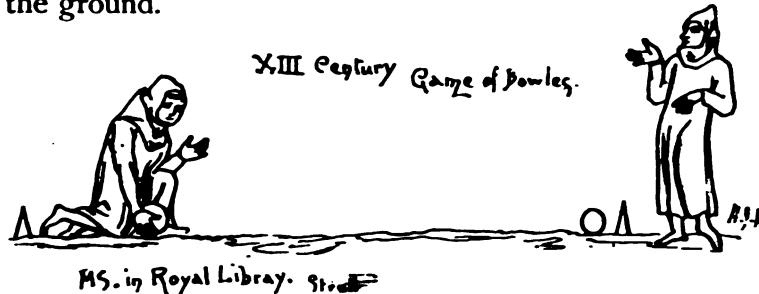


OWEVER doubtful may be the origin of the game of bowls, lexicographers agree that the words *bowle* (Old English), and *bowl* of the present day, are derived from *bulla*, Latin for bubble. The following have all a bearing on the subject: in French we have *boule*, bowl; *balle*, ball; *billes*, billiard-balls and marbles; (Scotch for marbles, *bools*); Icelandic, *böllr*; Old High German, *balla* and *palla*; Spanish, *bala*; Italian, *balla*, and the Greek *σφαῖρα*, *pila*, all meaning ball.

Walker defines *to bow*, to bend sideways (with a bias); *boulder*, a round mass of rock; *bowl*, a round mass rolled along the ground, and *ball*, anything made in a round form.

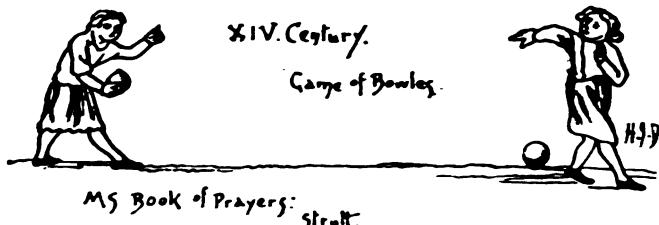
Conning over the derivations, it is curious to note how closely allied are the words ball and bowl; and how easy is the transition of the game of ball to that of

bowls, the one more or less in the air, the other on the ground.



Strutt,<sup>1</sup> an authority at the beginning of the present century on all games, says that bowling was an invention of the Middle Ages, and he had traced it back to the thirteenth century. This is no doubt true regarding the forms of the game as he knew it (the quaint illustrations annexed show considerable variation), but sculptured and painted antiquities of Ancient Greece and Egypt distinctly establish a fact, that games consisting of throwing and rolling balls and other circular objects were quite common thousands of years ago.

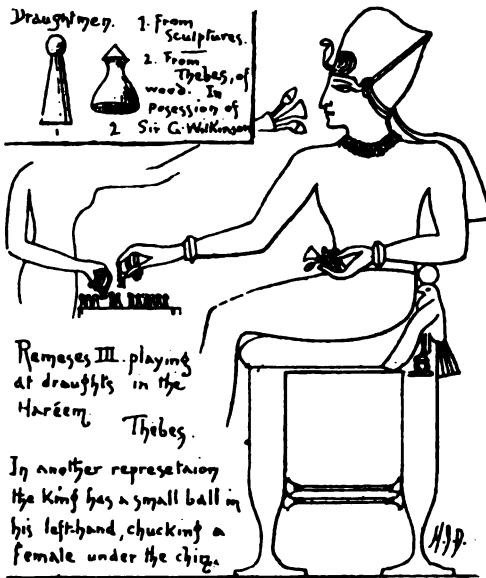
Meagre is the information regarding their methods of play and laws of the games. It is also difficult to reconcile the diverse opinions of early writers and their translators; but certainly Strutt was not infallible. He mentions *draughts* as a *modern* invention, whereas on the



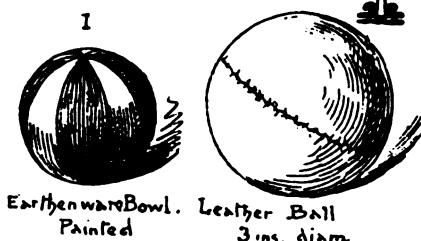
walls of the palace of Rameses at Thebes is depicted

<sup>1</sup> *Sports and Pastimes*, by J. Strutt.

Rameses III. playing a game, which Sir J. Gardiner Wilkinson, the eminent Egyptologist, declares to be *draughts*, the forerunner of chess.<sup>1</sup> The public at large are vastly indebted to such men, whose zeal in research and interpretations of the hieroglyphics and decorations among ancient Egyptian remains, have done so much towards throwing light on the manners and customs of so ancient a people, back to a period at least 3000 B.C.



#### Ancient Egyptian Toys.



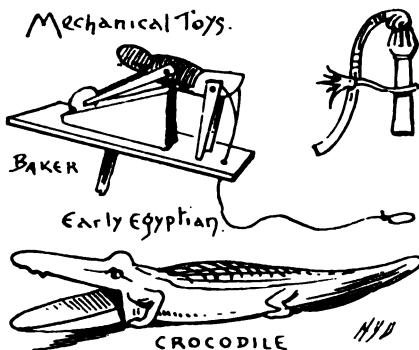
Balls about three inches in diameter, made of leather

<sup>1</sup> Dámeh, a game like our draughts, is played in Egypt at the present day. Perhaps the Scotch *dambrod* has some connection.

<sup>2</sup> Pliny says the art of painting and the game of ball were invented in Egypt.

THE remains at Thebes and Beni-Hassan are prolific in interesting records, and the game of ball as practised by the ancient Egyptians is depicted in various ways.<sup>2</sup>

or skins, sewed with string and stuffed with bran or husks of corn, have been found in the tombs. Some in the British Museum are made of rush-stalks, plaited together into a ball and covered with leather; others, of more immediate interest to a bowler, are a little smaller and made of porcelain gaily painted (see fig. 1 in illustration). These earthenware balls it is reasonable to suppose were played on the ground. To play with them in the same manner as the stuffed ball would render the amusement, to say the least, risky, when their weight is considered. It is quite possible they were indoor toys of the young Egyptians, like our carpet-balls, and if this supposition is anywhere near the truth, our out-door game of bowls is only a variation of the same form of pastime.

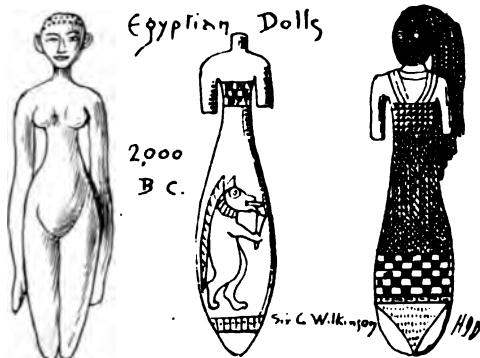


Supporting this view, as well as showing that human nature was much the same then as now, the two drawings of ancient mechanical toys are inserted. In the upper one the string is "manipulated and the figure moves" and in the lower one the under jaw of the animal moves. It may also interest bowlers' bairns to know that the ancient Egyptian children had dolls, and played at games similar to our "Buck! buck! how many fingers do I hold up?" "odds and evens," "chucks," "bools," etc.

For the game of ball we have incontestable evidence in the mural decorations of the tombs and palaces. In

these delineations, women principally figure as the players, though men and children also played ball.

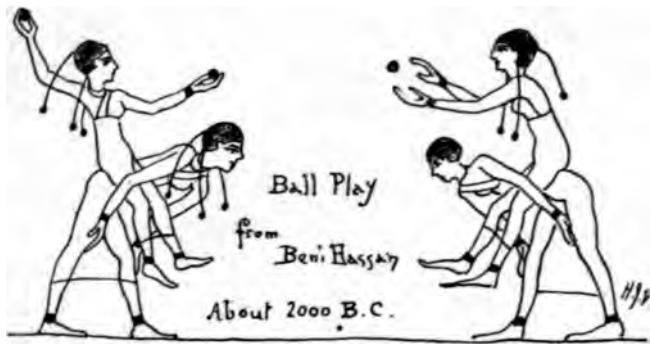
There can be little doubt that the Israelites, while in Egypt, had learned the pastimes of the country, and indulged in them pretty freely after the exodus.<sup>1</sup> See Exodus xxvi. 6, "And the people sat down to eat and to drink and rose up to play."<sup>2</sup>



The variety of ball-games is too large a subject to enter into here; but as *ball* and *bowl* were almost synonymous terms in early times, and as *bowl*s is frequently included under the generic term *games of ball*, it may not be amiss to say something about ball-play.

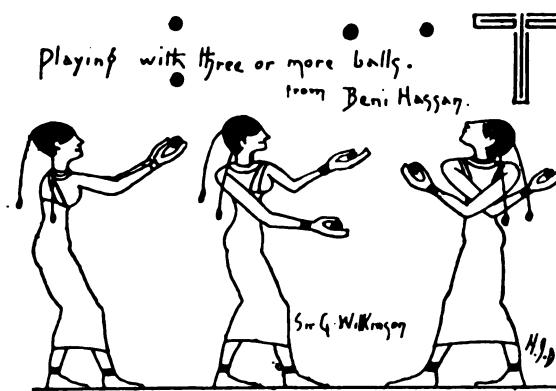
<sup>1</sup> The prophet Isaiah had some knowledge of ball-play, see chap. xxii, verse 18, where the simile is used, "toss thee like a ball." 700 B.C.

<sup>2</sup> The painting and sculptures of Thebes and Beni-Hassan commemorate incidents in the life of Thotemes III., the Pharaoh of the Exodus, 1490 B.C.



## CHAPTER I.

### BALL-PLAY.



HERE can be little doubt that the *ball* is the most naturally perfect primitive plaything. Is it not a fact that anything that rolls or runs gives

intense delight to the infant mind? The author of *Helen's Babies* struck no truer chord of human sympathy than in describing the boy's overmastering desire to "see the wheels go round," and children of a larger growth experience a fascinating pleasure in observing engines and other mechanical triumphs of the

human intellect ; even the lower animals evince the instinct, as exemplified by the antics of cats, monkeys, etc.

It is not a very wild stretch of the imagination to picture Cain and Abel toying with such luscious and attractive spheres, as oranges, pomegranates, apples, etc. ; and accept as a fact, that the partiality for ball-toys is inherent, and our first-parents to blame therefor. From mother Eve down, the *apple* has always had special

Attitudes in the  game of ball. Ancient



attractions for the gentler sex, and is often conspicuous in ancient mythology and history. Did not Venus give Milanion the three golden apples, which enabled him to defeat Atalanta and win her for his bride ?

Then there is the classic story of the golden apple of discord which led to the judgment of Paris and the elevation of Venus to first place among the beauties. One of the feats of Hercules was killing the huge dragon which guarded the three golden apples in the gardens of the Hesperides.

The Greek custom "to confer an apple" was to make a declaration of love. Acontius won Cydippe, a noble and beautiful lady, for his bride, by writing a couple of verses on an apple, and sending it to her.

"Cydippe by a letter was betray'd  
Writ on an apple to the unwaried maid."—*Ovid*.

Egypt.  about 1700 B.C.



See G. Wilkinson

Aristophanes, in *The Clouds*, recommends a young man "never to go to the house of a dancer, for fear that, while he stands gaping with open mouth, the girl should throw him the apple and compromise his reputation."

In an article,<sup>1</sup> on the Tanagra Figurines of the fourth and fifth centuries B.C., mention is made of female figures seated, with red balls or apples in their hands, doubtless ball-players, for on some antique vases ball-players, seated, are shown.

The transition from play with an apple to ball-play seems quite natural. The subject of a vase-painting at Naples is Cupid himself throwing the *ball* to a maiden, and the inscription reads, "he has thrown me the ball." Timarete being about to marry, consecrated to Artemis her tambourine and light hollow ball, etc.

Among the Tanagra Terra-Cottas are several boy ball-players, who, according to the mythology of the period,



players, who, according to the mythology of the period,

<sup>1</sup> E. Strachan in *Scribner's Magazine*.

were the presiding deities over the sports of children. One, nine inches high, in the Boston U.S.A. Museum of the Fine Arts, is specially interesting from the size of the spherical object in the right hand of the figure, which is described as a racket ball.<sup>1</sup>

The *sphaeristerium*,<sup>2</sup> attached to Roman baths and villas, was a place specially set apart for the game of ball, which was very generally indulged in under the Empire: and prior to the fall of the Roman Empire, *pila* was one of the most favoured games. Pliny states that Spurinna played ball to ward off old age. Physicians of the period prescribed indulgence in the game to their patients. Augustus Caesar played ball as a "wholesome exertion for both body and mind."

Ball games were played under a variety of names. *Pila* was the small ball played with the hand; *Follis*, the large air-ball, played with both hand and foot. These seem to have been the most common. The *Paganica*



from Baths of Titus

<sup>1</sup> The *bulla* of the ancient Greek and Roman youths of nobility was a little golden ball worn by them till they were seventeen years old, when it was then offered to the domestic gods, Lares and Penates. It was made hollow, and carried as a charm against magic. Some say religious significance was attached to it, and it was formerly worn by Egyptian priests, but its origin or meaning is lost. In Isaiah iii. 19, in the original, the ball-ornament may have reference to this trinket. A golden ball, signifying sovereignty (perhaps love also), is the origin of the term Pope's Bull, from its having been fixed to the papal decree.

<sup>2</sup> In Italy there are still public places where people play with large balls, which they strike with a kind of wooden cylinder (fastened round the wrists) to an immense height (Blackie's *Encyclopaedia*).

was, in size, between the *pila* and *follis*, and was solid; but how the game was played with it, is not known.<sup>1</sup> From its size and weight we may suppose it was played on the ground.

“Hand-ball anciently resembled the *follis* of the Romans (*Follis Pugillatorius*), which was a large ball beaten backwards and forwards with the fist.”<sup>2</sup>

Strutt is very exhaustive in reference to this game, and gives first place to the game of hand-ball, instancing Nausica; and Corcyra with her maidens, thus amusing themselves.

“O'er the green mead the sporting virgins play,  
Their shining veils unbound, along the skies,  
Tost and re-tost, the ball incessant flies.”



After Sir F. Leighton, Bart., P.R.A.

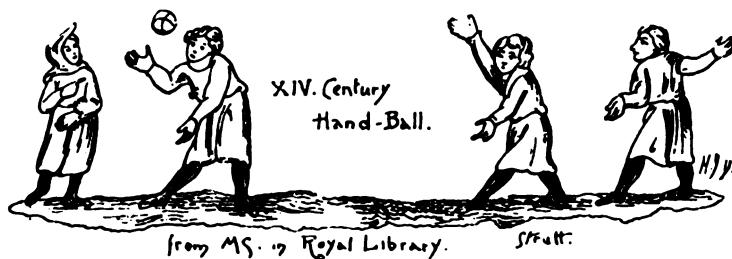
This graceful and exhilarating pastime has been admirably treated by Sir Frederick Leighton, P.R.A., in his picture of “Greek Girls at Ball-Play,” which “was not inspired immediately from any work, but simply from the beauty of the action developed in the game of ball.”

In comparatively modern times the ball had some deep significance in religious ceremonies, which, if still in force, would be no less startling than the demonstrations of the Salvation Army or the Ghost-Dancers.

<sup>1</sup> Becker's *Gallus*.

<sup>2</sup> Donald Walker, 1837.

A curious custom in English churches at Easter is too quaint to be omitted. The ceremony is thus described. "The ball being received, the dean, or his representative, began an antiphone or chant, suited to Easter Day; then taking the ball in his left hand, he commenced to dance to the tune; and others of the clergy danced round hand in hand. At intervals, the ball was handed or tost to each of the choristers; the organ playing according to the dance or sport. At the conclusion of the sport, they went and took refreshment. It was the privilege of the lord or his *locum tenens* to throw the ball; and even the Archbishop did it."<sup>1</sup> Statutes were passed regulating the size of the ball. Probably the pagan love-apple (the ball to symbolise it) gave rise to this curious function. In France and Italy this practice was also observed on Easter Day.



Ball-money at weddings may also be attributed to the same symbolism. Among the colliers, etc., in the North of England, it is customary for a party to watch for the bridegroom's coming out of the church after the ceremony, in order to demand money for a football, a claim that admits of no refusal; while in Normandy, the bride throws a ball over the church, which bachelors and married men scramble for. They then dance together.<sup>2</sup>

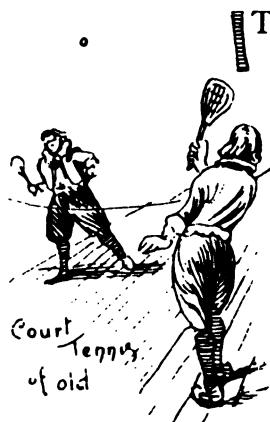
<sup>1</sup> Donald Walker.

<sup>2</sup> Brand's *Antiquities*.

Coles, in his dictionary, mentions another kind of ball-money, given by a bride to her old playfellows. There is also a similar custom at weddings in remote villages, of giving a football to the schoolmaster, who, immediately after the joining of hands, kicks it among the expectant children.

May not the cries of our city gamins for "bowl-money," and the scattering of loose coin among them, on the departure of the newly-wedded couple, be a relic of some old-time custom of the same kind?

One merit that characterised the game of hand-ball (in common with bowling and curling) was that it brought together in friendly contest all sorts and conditions of men. Brand says it was "no uncommon occurrence to see a nobleman playing with a mechanic who is skilful at the game."



It may interest our lady friends to state that the game of tennis was derived from this game of hand-ball; only the ball was struck with the palm of the hand, and, in order to give more force to the stroke, a method was devised, of stretching leather thongs across the open hand. The racket is a development of this device. *La paume*, the palm, is French for tennis, and a fair indication of its origin.

It does not come within the scope of this work to describe all the variations of the game of ball, such as goff, cambuca, bandy or shinty, club-ball, cricket, balloon-ball, football, trap-ball, and shuttlecock; but the interest of the following notes may excuse their admission.

James II., 1457, enacted "that foote-ball and goffe be utterly cryed down," and James VI., nearly two centuries later, was moved to say: "From this Courte I debarre all rough and violent exercises, as the foot-ball, meeter for lameing than making able the users thereof."

Misson's description of football is simplicity itself. "In winter, football is a useful and charming exercise. It is a leather ball filled with wind, about as big as one's head. This is kicked about the streets from one to tother, by him that can get at it, and that is all the art of it."

Charles I., 1642, was engaged in the game of goff<sup>1</sup> on Leith Links when the news of the Irish Rebellion reached him. One, John Patersone, a shoemaker, and the best golfer of his day, built a house in the Cannon-gate, Edinburgh, with his share of the winnings in a game (the Duke of York was his partner), against two English noblemen. *Chambers' Traditions of Edinburgh.*

Pepys records of Charles II., playing at tennis, that "to see how the King's play was extolled, without any cause at all, was a loathsome sight; though sometimes indeed he did play very well and deserved to be commended; but such open flattery is beastly."

An old time writer alludes to Rugby football thus—

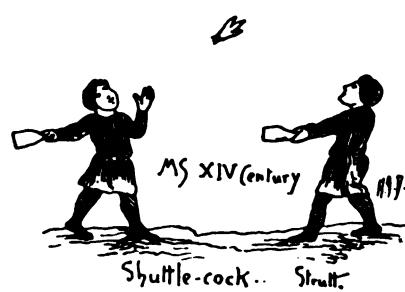
"Each one contendeth and hath a great delite  
With foote and hands the bladder for to smite."

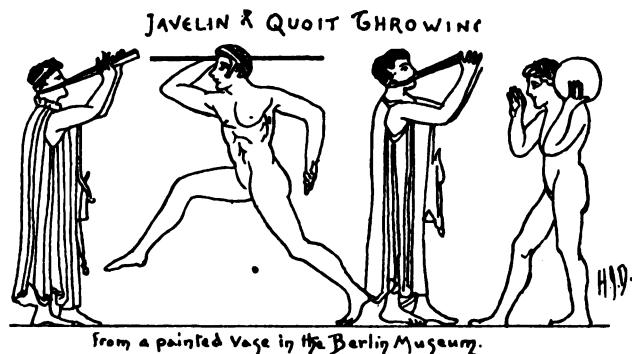
The Earl of Surrey, while a prisoner in Windsor,

<sup>1</sup>Strutt says that in Edward Third's time (1327-to 1377) *Cambuca* was the name of goff.

prior to his execution in 1547, recalls his past pleasures in touching verse--

“The palm-play, where despoiled for the game,  
With dazed eyes oft we by gleams of love,  
Have missed the ball, and got sight of our dame,  
To bait her eyes, which kept the leads above.”





## CHAPTER II.

### GROUND GAMES,

WHERE THE ROLLING OR THROWING OF CIRCULAR  
OBJECTS IS A PRINCIPAL FEATURE.



WITH the ancients, *quoits* seems to have been the most popular of games for exhibiting the great strength of the competitors ; while javelin-throwing and archery took foremost places as games of skill. It would appear that the *quoit* or *discus* was sometimes rolled away ; or when thrown would strike the ground on its edge and roll some distance further. The game thus played might have suggested *skittles*. The axiom that doctors differ is quite applicable here, and there is every reason for believing that the *quoit* was not always a *discus*.

Dr. Johnson makes a distinction between the quoit and discus ; the former, he says, was a game of skill, and the latter a game of strength.<sup>1</sup>

Quoits were also used as weapons to kill, as instanced by the story of the execution of the inventor of toughened glass, whose head was lopped off with a sharp-edged quoit, by the order of Tiberius ; so that the invention should not become known and the value of metals depreciated.



The *Chakra* or sharp-edged quoit, used by foot-soldiers in the east, is very ancient. Representations of the gods with the chakra grasped in one of their numerous hands, are frequently met with in the ruined temples of India. It was used by the Sikhs against the British in the Panjaub.

The *Chakai* is a Hindoo toy composed of two wheels rolled on the ground, manipulated with a string.

In Pompeii a small bronze statuette was discovered, which savants declare to be contemporary with the Greek sculptors, Myron and Pheidias, 500 B.C. It is a discobolus, so called, and represents an athlete in an attitude of rolling rather than throwing. In other works the action of throwing or putting is clearly indicated. The early

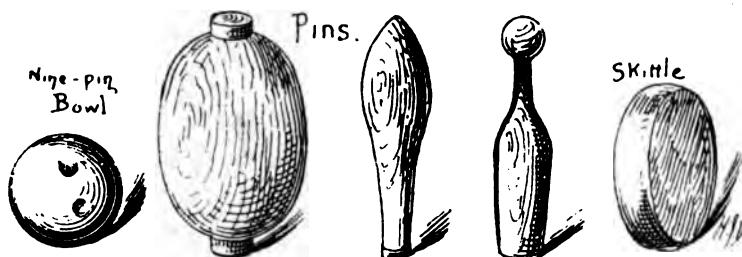
<sup>1</sup> Apollo was credited with great skill in the games, though he unfortunately killed the beautiful boy Hyacinthus with a quoit, which induced him to create a flower to his memory. *Apollonaria* were games held in honour of Apollo at Rome.

Greeks sometimes hurled the quoit "in the manner of a bowl," and the quoits were of *different sizes and figures, including the sphaeristic.*<sup>1</sup> Hone, in noticing the "parish game of curling,"<sup>2</sup> says, the "stones used are called *coits* or *quoits*, or *coiting* or *quoiting-stones*." In Smith's *Antiquities* it is stated that the *discus* was sometimes a sphere. Some writers describe the *discus* or *quoit* as a flat metal plate; others that it was hollowed like a shield; again, that it was a round heavy mass of copper, stone, or iron, thicker in the middle than towards the circumference. The latter form is so like the skittle, that the knocking down of pins with a missile, thus described, may have originated the skittle game.

Walker defines skittle as "a piece of wood like a sugar-loaf used in the game of skittles," and in a note,



Bronze Statuette.



says, "This word is in no dictionary that I have ever seen; nor do I know its derivation. It is described by

<sup>1</sup> Potter's *Grecian Antiquities*.

<sup>2</sup> Other games, where *discs* are used (such as coins), are *shove-groat*, *slide-thrift*, *slip-thrift*, and *shoofle-boorde*. *Hop-scotch*, or *peever*, is another phase of the sliding-disc game.

FAL. "Quoit him down, Bardolf, like a *shove-groat shilling*."  
Shakespeare.

Johnson, under the word *loggats*, to be *kittle-pins* set up and thrown down by a bowl; but what *kittle-pins* are, neither he nor any other of our lexicographers informs us." Ogilvie goes further, and defines *skittle-ball*, "a disc of hard wood for throwing at the pins in the game of skittles," and gives the derivation from the "Anglo-Saxon *sceolan, scylan*, to shoot; *scyle*, literally a shooting."

"A well-known game still common under the name of skittles is thus alluded to in *Poor Robin*, 1707—

"Ladies for pleasure now resort  
Unto Hide-park and Totnam Court ;  
People to Moorfields flock in sholes,  
At *nine-pins* and at pigeon holes.  
The country lasses pastime make  
At stool-ball and at barley-break ;  
And young men they pass time away  
At wrestling and at football-play.  
And every one, in their own way  
As merry are as birds in May."<sup>1</sup>

*Skittles* and *nine-pins* are alike, in respect to pieces of wood being stuck up, to be knocked over; but it is quite



clear the *skittle*<sup>2</sup> is a flat bowl, not a ball; the *nine-pin*

<sup>1</sup> Brand's *Antiquities*. Pepys alludes to nine-pins in 1660.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote on page 25.

bowl being used in other variations of the game, such as *four-corners*, *cloish*, and *kayles*; the terms *skittle-alley* and *bowling-alley* denoting two distinct games. The following curious wager is recorded in the *Gentlemen's Magazine*. On the 4th of August, 1739, a farmer of Croydon undertook, for a considerable wager, to bowl a skittle-bowl from that town to London Bridge, about eleven miles, in 500 times, and performed it in 445.

French "nine-pins" (?) *les quilles*, is equivalent to the English game of *kayles*, being six or more pins stuck up to be knocked down by a bowl. In *club-kayles*, however, a short club or baton is used, not a bowl.

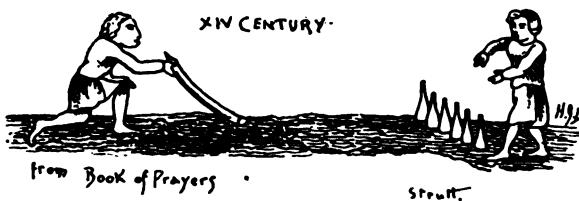
The poet Burns in *The Battle of Sherra Muir* uses this expression—

"They hough'd the clans like nine-pin kyles."

*Loggats*, another term for nine-pins, is mentioned in Hamlet—

"Did these bones cost no more the breeding,  
But to play at loggats with them."

Sir Thomas Urquhart, of Cromarty, in his curious work entitled *The Discovery of a most exquisite Jewel, found in the Kennel of Worcester Street, the day after the fight, 1651*, says—"They likewise may be said to



use their king as the players at nine-pins do the *middle kyle*, which they call the king, at whose fall they aim, the sooner to the gaining of their prize." The centre

pin was called the king-pin and was a little taller than the others.<sup>1</sup>

Marbles (in Scotland, *bools*) has been a pastime of men and children for ages. The ancients used scraps of *marble*, and costly crystals, to make them; hence the name. The exceeding beauty of the polylithic playthings is very attractive.

Sueton, in his life of Augustus, mentions the famous Roman, when a boy, playing a game like marbles with his Moorish companions. Round nuts were used: *cum nucibus*.

That larger masses of stone were made into balls and used in various games is beyond question, and the beginning of the fifteenth century is about the time bowls were first made of wood. Reference to stone bowls being used by the citizens of London is made by Fitzsteven.<sup>2</sup>

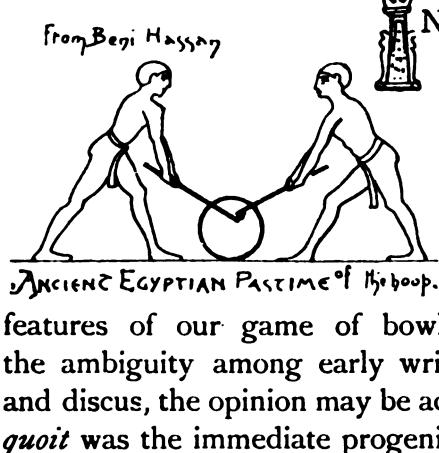
In Syria the game of marbles is very ancient and is still popular. It is played on a prepared wooden floor. The Chinese have also a very old game called Tee-Tchu, which is played with a large sized marble being shot along the ground, *to a mark*, by the toes, the mark being sometimes another marble, resembling much our game of bowls. Hindoo boys play marbles in the hot season, and the girls have games in the cold season not unlike our *croquet*, called *Lapac-danda* and *Girli-danda*.

Trundling the hoop and wheel occupied a prominent position as a pastime in early ages among Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Chinese, and Anglo-Saxons. The

<sup>1</sup> Charles Second's treatment at the hands of the Roundheads is here alluded to.

<sup>2</sup> Stow's *Survey of London*, 1720.

three small drawings at the end of this chapter are engraved antique gems in the Stosch collection, Berlin,<sup>1</sup> and show naked boys running with the *trochus* or hoop. Contests took place with the *trochus*. In the centre gem there is, presumably, a laurel branch, a jar of oil (it was the custom to anoint the athletes in the games), and a *trochus*. Curiously enough the hoop is called *bow* in many parts of England.



In this summary of ground games and their simple elements (*i.e.* rolling, bowling, and throwing circular and spherical objects with skill and judgment) may be recognised the leading features of our game of bowls; and notwithstanding the ambiguity among early writers regarding the quoit and discus, the opinion may be advanced that the *spherical quoit* was the immediate progenitor of the *bowle*.

<sup>1</sup> From W. Smith's *Greek and Roman Antiquities*.





### CHAPTER III.

#### THE GAME IN ENGLAND.

THE introduction of the game of bowls in *Cymbeline*<sup>1</sup> is included by Douce<sup>2</sup> in a critical list of Shakespearian anachronisms; but as the period of time is 43 A.D. (when quoiting, putting, football, cockfighting, etc., were familiar pastimes of the Romans) Douce may be wrong and William Shakespeare right. The "base football player" in *King Lear*,<sup>3</sup> and Cleopatra's<sup>4</sup> invitation "to billiards" in *Antony and Cleopatra*, are unnoticed by the authority, so there is room for doubt.

The *Dictionnaire Universel des Sciences* says, "The game of billiards appears to be derived from the game of bowls. It was known in England in old time, and

<sup>1</sup> Kymbeline, father of Togadamus and Caractacus, king of Britain. Arviragus (Adminius), called his youngest son, was banished to Rome 43 A.D. Camelodunum (Colchester) the capital of Britain (*Ranking's Wars of Ancient Greece and Rome*).

<sup>2</sup> Douce's *Illustrations of Shakespeare*.

<sup>3</sup> Henry Irving dates the period of King Lear "at the departure of the Romans from Britain."

<sup>4</sup> About 30 B.C.

was perhaps invented there." Strutt, writing of billiards, says, "I cannot help thinking it originated, from an ancient game played with small bowls upon the ground, and indeed that it was, when first instituted, the same game transferred from the ground to the table." The ancient pastime (see illustration) suggests a combination of billiards and bowls. The thought occurs ; might not the green lawn be the prototype of the green



An Ancient Pastime. Strutt.

cloth? So if *billiards* is "derived from *bowls*," it is quite probable that the Romans introduced some such games into this country, as well as cockfighting;<sup>1</sup> therefore the introduction of the game of bowls in *Cymbeline* may be quite appropriate.

*Pall-Mall*, from *palla* and *meglia*, a mallet,<sup>2</sup> was another game of bowls played with *sticks*; and gave the name to a well known London Street, also a wide road near it in St. James's Park, where the game used to be played. "A stroke with a pail-mail bettle upon a bowle,

<sup>1</sup> Douce thinks Shakespeare's introduction of quail-fighting in *Antony and Cleopatra*, Act ii. Sc. 4, all right, as "he might suppose that Caesar's or Antony's quails, which he found in Plutarch, were trained to battle like game-cocks."

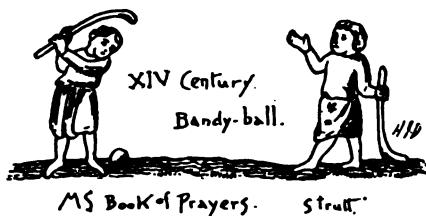
Quail combats were well known among the ancient Athenians. "Julius Pollux relates that a circle was made in which the birds were placed." "The Chinese have always been extremely fond of quail-fighting. See Mr. Bell's excellent relation of his travels in China."

<sup>2</sup> This derivation is good enough, but *pail* (pailing or railing) and *mall* or *mell*, a wooden mallet used by masons, might be considered.

makes it fly from it," is an allusion to this game by Digby.

Mr. Nares believes that the place for playing was called the *mall*, and the stick employed, the *pall-mall*, and quotes, "If one had a paile-maile it were good to play in the alley; for it is of a reasonable good length, straight and even."<sup>1</sup> The following extracts from P. Cunningham's *Hand-book of London*, 1850, will interest the reader. "A paille mall is a wooden hammer set to the end of a long staffe to strike a boule with, at which game noblemen and gentlemen in France doe play much."<sup>2</sup> "Among the exercises of France, I prefere none before the Paille-Maille, both because it is a gentlemanlike sport, not violent, and yields good occasion and opportunity of discourse as they walke from one marke to the other. I marvell among many more apish and foolish toys which we have brought out of France, that we have not brought this sport also into England."<sup>3</sup> "Pale-Maille (Fr.), a game wherein a round bowle is with a mallet struck through a high arch of iron (standing at either end of the alley) which he that can do at the fewest blows, or at the number agreed on, wins. This game was heretofore used in the long alley near St. James's and vulgarly called Pell-mell."<sup>4</sup> *Croquet* is probably a modification of the game. Pepys in his

*Diary* records, 2nd April, 1661, "To St. James Park where I saw the Duke of York playing at pellmell, the first time that I ever



<sup>1</sup> Hone's *Year Book*.

<sup>3</sup> Sir R. Darlington, 1598.

<sup>2</sup> French *Garden of English Ladies*, 1621.

<sup>4</sup> Blunt's *Glossographia*, 1670.

saw the sport," and again "afterwarde to St. James's Park, seeing the people play at pall-mall." 15th May, 1663, "I walked in the parke discoursing withe the keeper of the Pell Mell, who was sweeping of it; who told me of what the earth is mixed that do floor the Mall, and that over all there is cockle-shells powdered and spread to keep it fast; which however in dry weather turns to dust and deads the ball."

Nothing authentic regarding the rules of the game of bowls, down to a comparatively recent period, seems to be available; or whether the ground was specially prepared or not. In *Coriolanus* (Act v. Scene 2) is the following—

"Sometime like to a bowl upon a subtle ground,  
I have tumbled past the throw."

Here there is an indication of a peculiar character of the ground, where a knowledge of the *surface* would be essential to success; and that the early Romans played the game on greens (or grounds) that were not dead level. Ben Jonson uses the expression "the subtlest bowling-green in all Tartary" (*Ogilvie*).

English greens are raised in the centre, which causes the bowl, having little or no bias, to run in a curved line. This peculiarity may be a perpetuation of the subtlety alluded to.

In *Country Contentments*, a book published about 1615, is this reference to bowling as a pastime, "in which a man shall find great art in chusing out his ground, and preventing the winding, hanging, and many turning advantages of the same, whether it be in open wilde places or in close allies; and for his sport, the chusing of the bowle is the greatest cunning; your flat bowles<sup>1</sup> being best for allies, your round biazed bowles

<sup>1</sup> The *skittle-bowle* probably.

for open grounds of advantage, and your round bowls, like a ball, for green swathes that are plain and level." Some marked differences are here indicated of both bowls and ground. The ground of advantage being probably uneven, with obstacles which would mar the course of a bowl *not biazed*.

In Scotland the greens are, or ought to be, dead level.

In England (differing from the Scotch game) the *jack* or *kitty* is thrown from the last finishing place in any direction. The leader has a jack with the same bias as his bowls, thus enabling him, by observing the course of the jack, to profit by any irregularity of the surface. Rink playing, if played at all, is comparatively a recent introduction. The Scotch game is gradually growing in favour.



Four of the twelve panes in ancient window at Batley in Staffordshire

The morris-green was, in all probability, the bowling-green; about the time of Queen Elizabeth and earlier. It was certainly a green set apart for games and revelry.

"If it be not too rough for some that know little but bowling,"<sup>1</sup> is a quotation that brings the morris-dance<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Winter's Tale.*

<sup>2</sup> Nine-men's-morris is a game played on squares deeply marked in the

and bowling in conjunction. The morris-dancers were invariably masculine.



HE fool, or clown,<sup>1</sup> in the morris-dance (the Jack-on-the-Green) suggests the thought that the *jack*, in the game of bowls, may owe its origin to the wide significance of the term

as applied to individuals. We have the terms *jack-ass* and *jack-pudding*, describing a merry-andrew or clown; *jack*, a cunning fellow; *jack-o'-lantern*, an *ignis fatuus* or will-o'-the-wisp; *jack-a-napes*, a coxcomb; and *jack-a-lent*, a puppet or butt thrown at for sport, in Lent on Ash Wednesday—

“When thou didst stand six weeks the jack-a-lent,  
For boys to hurl three throws a penny at thee.”

Ben Jonson.

In French it is *cochonnel*, a butt or mark, and *cochonner* means to work clownishly.<sup>2</sup> As the living *jack* was the butt or centre to which gravitated all the fooling, or was the main attraction of a convivial company in the middle

turf or ground. The *men* were stones, wooden pins, bits of crockery, etc. The moves on the squares, resembling somewhat the motions of the morris-dancers, gave the game its name.

“The nine-men’s-morris is filled up with mud.”

Midsummer Night’s Dream.

“I take these wise men, that crow so at these kind of fools,  
No better than the fool’s zanies.”

Twelfth Night.

<sup>2</sup> According to Cotgrave, there formerly existed in France a game called *carrean*—like bowles—the jack or mark being set up on a square stone at the end of an alley (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*).<sup>1</sup>

ages, so the *jack* in the game of bowls is the point round which all the interest of the game is centred. The analogy of the terms is both close and ancient.



THE passage in *Cymbeline*, Act ii. Scene 1, which has already been alluded to, hints at a "ruction" during a game of bowls, in which *jack* is mentioned.

"*Cloten, log.*—'Was there ever man had such luck! when I kissed the *jack*, upon an up-cast to be hit away! I had a hundred pound on't: and then a . . . jackanapes must take me up for swearing; as if I borrowed mine oaths of him, and might not spend them at my pleasure.'



from *Genealogical roll of the Kings of England to the time of Henry III*

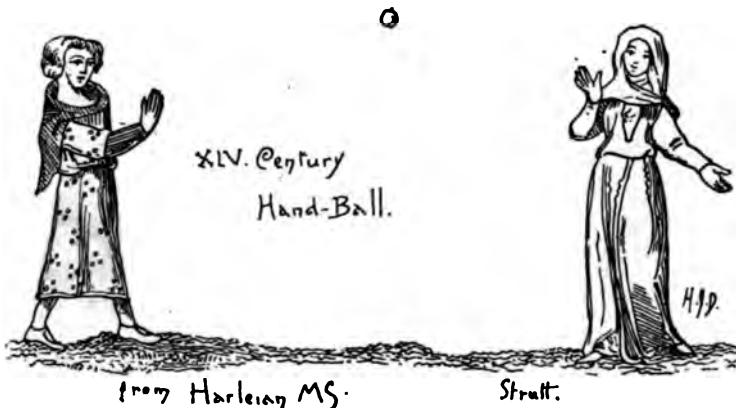
"*First Lord*—'What got he by that? You have broke his pate with your bowl.'"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cervantes, in *Don Quixote*, mentions the jack-pudding of the morris-dance.

Under the Plantagenets, archery was the principal out-door amusement of the lower orders, being specially encouraged by the authorities; and was practised on Sundays and holy days after divine service. On these occasions quoits, cock-fighting, games of ball, etc., were strictly forbidden.

The citizens of London "went outside the walls to play (at bowls), though there were also alleys inside the walls, which were such scenes of riot that they were forbidden by Richard II. and Edward IV."<sup>1</sup>

The aristocratic and wealthy had, however, the privilege of bowling; at all events the incident in *Richard II.*, Act iii. Scene 4, indicates it. The young girl-queen,



Isobel of France, is *ennui* and low-spirited. While walking with one of her ladies in the Duke of York's garden, she asks—

"What sport shall we devise here in this garden,  
To drive away the heavy load of care?"

The lady answers—

"Madam, we'll play at bowls."

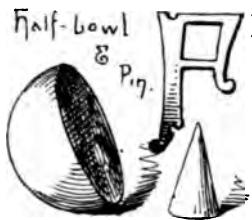
<sup>1</sup> Stow's *Survey of London*.

The queen's remark to the suggestion evinces a knowledge of the game as well as the condition of her mind—

“Twill make me think the world is full of rubs,  
And that my fortune runs against the bias.”

This passage also discloses the fact that ladies played the game. Shakespeare, in another place, uses the expression “challenge her to bowl.”

It was during the reign of Henry VI., in the year 1455, that the first *bowling-alley* was *established* in London;<sup>1</sup> that is, became a legal pastime within the walls. As already noted, the love for gaming<sup>2</sup> grew in the course of a century to such an extent, that it became necessary to prohibit the playing at bowls by the common people, particularly as it prevented the due practice of archery.



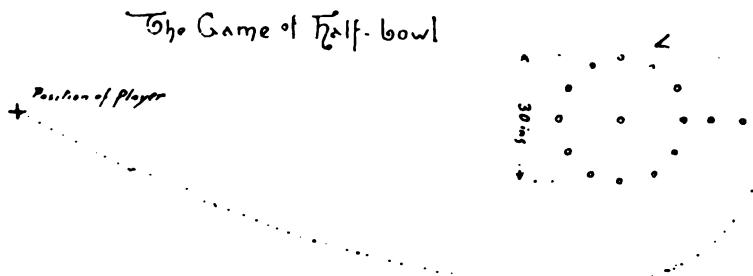
ITZSTEVENS, writing in 1477-8, mentions the curious game of *half-bowl* as being included among the “many imagined plays” which were followed by all classes “to their own impoverishment, and by their ungracious procurement and encouraging, do inducen others into such plays, till they be utterly undone and impoverished of their goods.” Hone says it was played in his time.

The game was played with a perfect hemisphere and fifteen conical pins. The following diagram will explain the position of the pins, and the course of the half-bowl from the player's standpoint, whose object

<sup>1</sup> Stow.

<sup>2</sup> It is curious to note that the first book printed at the first printing press in England, was a treatise on the *Game of Chess*, 1477. Saunderson's *History*.

was to knock down the pins after clearing the two outside the circle.

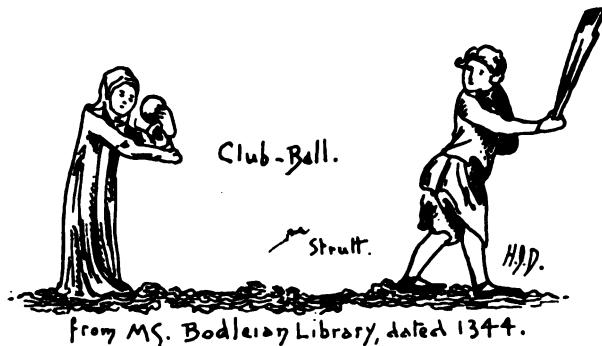


During the Tudor period games of ball seem to have got a fair hold among all grades of society. Henry VIII. added "divers fair tennis-courts and bowling-alleys to Whitehall," though even he had to prohibit bowling and other games among the lower classes, in consequence of their over-indulgence in the pastimes. Neglect of duty and the trying to make life "all beer and skittles" was more than the "merrie monarch" could tolerate.

An act was passed forbidding anyone from playing bowls but the "wealthy and well-to-do," and that no one "by himself, factor, deputy, servant or other, shall, for his or her gain, lucre, or living, keep, have, hold, occupy, exercise, or maintain any common house, alley, or place of bowling. Artificers, servants, etc., might play at Christmas-time, and a license might be granted to anyone with over £100 per annum, to keep a bowling-green for private play only," and no one could "play at any bowle or bowles in open place out of his own garden or orchard."

This act was not repealed till 1845, when by 8 and 9 Vic. Cap. 109, bowls and other games of skill were permitted to be indulged in by the people.

Probably the close proximity of the playgrounds to taverns and hostelries was the immediate cause of so much excess and debauchery. All places of any importance had bowling-greens and alleys attached.



from MS. Bodleian Library, dated 1344.

Steven Gosson in his *School of Abuse*, 1579, describes the sad condition due to this social evil. "Common bowling alleys," he writes, "are privy moths that eat up the credit of many idle citizens, whose gaines at home are not able to weigh downe theyr losses abroad; whose shoppes are so farre from maintaining theyr playe that theyre wives and children cry out for bread, and go to bedde supperlesse ofte in the yeare . . . Oh, what a wonderful change is this! our wrestling at armes is turned to wallowing in ladies' laps, our courage to cowardice, our running to ryot, our bowes to bowls, and our darts to dishes."

Queen Elizabeth tried to put down the so-called unlawful games, so that "tables, dice, cards, and bowles, were taken and brent"; but in the cause of charity she could be liberal, and licensed "one, John Seconton Powlter, . . . being a poore man, having soure small children, and fallen into decays, ys licensed to have, and use some playes and games at or uppon

nyne severall Sundaies for his better relief"; and the county magistrates were instructed to assist him.<sup>1</sup>

Gaming on Sundays seemed to be the rule, and later became a law of the land.<sup>2</sup>



The name of Elizabeth naturally brings to mind the oft told story of Sir Francis Drake being engaged with Hawkins, in a game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe, when Captain Thomas Flemming brought the tidings of the appearance of the Spanish Armada off the Lizard; and Drake's remark, "There is time to finish the game and beat the Spaniards afterwards." This celebrated game was played on the little terrace bowling-green,<sup>3</sup> behind

<sup>1</sup> Cardwell's *Documentary Annals*.

<sup>2</sup> A Harleian MS. of date 15th January, 1586, dwells on the great number of actors at that time performing in the city of London; and deplores the fact, that they not only played every day in the week, but also on Sundays.

<sup>3</sup> Seymour Lucas does not indicate much of a green in his admirable picture, but this is probably an artistic license.

the Pelican Inn; Drake's ship, in which he circumnavigated the world, was called the "Pelican"—<sup>1</sup>

"See every man the Pelican  
Which round the world did go."

The great Armada was sighted about 4 o'clock on the afternoon of the 19th July, 1588. Thus time, place, and players of this game of bowls are as much a matter of history as the great naval event itself.

Charles Kingsley<sup>2</sup> relates that when Drake was asked by the Lord High Admiral of England, Lord Howard, for his counsel in the emergency, he answered, aiming his bowl, "They'll come soon enough for us to show them sport, and yet slow enough for us to be ready; so let no man hurry himself, and as example is better than precept, here goes," throwing his bowl and continuing his game. The game seems to have been played in *rubbers*; Hawkins, who won the game, thus addressing Drake, "There, Vice-Admiral, you're beaten, and that's the rubber. Pay up three dollars, old high-flyer."

"Now Howard may get to his Flaccus,  
And Drake to his Devon again,  
And Hawkins bowl rubbers to Bacchus—  
For where are the galleons of Spain?"<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "The famous ship Pelican, in which Drake sailed round the world . . . Elizabeth's self consecrated her solemnly, and having banqueted on board, there and then honoured Drake with the dignity of knighthood."

*Westward Ho!*

<sup>2</sup> W. H. K. Wright (see *English Illustrated Magazine*, 1888) says he has verified the story of this game of bowls, and gives proofs.

<sup>3</sup> "Ballad to Queen Elizabeth of the Spanish Armada."—*Austin Dobson*.

Drake's memory is associated with a large meteoric stone ball, 100 lbs. in weight, which is always under an oak table in the hall of the ancient manor of Combe, Sydenham, near Williton, Somersetshire. It is said, the ball will always return to its resting place, no matter to what distance it may be

At this period bowling-greens were as commonly the adjunct of the Tudor mansion, as the croquet and tennis-lawns of modern times. Aston Hall, near Birmingham, may be cited as a type. Here Sir Thomas Holte, the founder, entertained Charles I. in 1642.

James I., 1617, licensed 31 bowling-alleys; Westminster,<sup>1</sup> Southwark, Lambeth, etc. The following year he issued *The Book of Sports*.<sup>2</sup> Among the sports he advised his son, Prince Henry, to indulge in, moderately, bowles is recommended and football condemned.

Court patronage stamped the game of bowls as the fashion, and up to the time of the Commonwealth, retained the lead as an outdoor pastime among the privileged classes.

removed. The romantic story of its advent is as follows:—A daughter of the house of Sydenham, named Elizabeth, became plighted to Sir Francis, prior to one of his cruises against the Spaniards, but on taking leave of his ladye-love, he bade her be true, and he would send her tokens that he was in the land of the living. Drake was absent many years, and either Bess was fickle, or the contemplation of a life of single-blessedness was too much for her, for she accepted the attentions of another. On the wedding morn as Bess and her second lover started on their way to church, *the ball rolled into the hall and passed between the two*, which being accepted as one of the promised tokens from Drake, this match was taken off. Drake did return and married the daughter of old Sir George at the age of fifty. The date of the settlement of marriage is August 25, 1595. A writer to *The Million* says the ball is still at Sydenham.

<sup>1</sup> Col. Blood, who stole the crown in Charles II.'s reign, died in a house in Bowling-Alley, Dean's Yard Street, Westminster, August 24, 1680.

<sup>2</sup> See page 37.



HARLES I. was a keen bowler. It is related that when the unfortunate king was a captive at Caversham, near Henly, he rode over, under escort, to a little place called Collins' End, out Goring Heath way on the Oxfordshire side of the Thames ; and finding a bowling-green there, indulged in "his favourite game." The sign at the inn bore an inscription having special reference to the game and the king's weakness for it. It read thus—

"Stop traveller, stop ! in yonder peaceful glade  
His favourite game the Royal Martyr played ;  
Here, stripped of honours, children, freedom, rank ;  
Drank from the bowl, and bowled for what he drank ;  
Sought in the bowls in vain his cares to drown,  
And changed a sovereign ere he lost his crown."

Richard Shute of Barking Hall, Barking, constructed with great care a bowling-green of such excellence, that it was considered one of the best in England. According to Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, Charles very frequently played with Shute for high stakes ; and sometimes, when the king had been more unlucky than usual, he would stop playing, with the remark that he had a wife and family to support, and must consider them. A little above Maple Durham Lock, not far from Caversham, you pass Hardurdy House where Charles I. played at bowls.<sup>1</sup> Charles also made a bowling-green at Spring Gardens ; and during his confinement at Holmby House, frequently went over to Lord Vaux's, at Harrowden, and Earl Spencer's at Althorp, where there were good

<sup>1</sup> J. K. Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat*.

bowling-greens. He was, it is stated, engaged playing this game when seized by Cornet Joyce.<sup>1</sup>



URING this period (1630-5), the notorious edict ordering the people to indulge in certain games (described in *The Book of Sports*)<sup>2</sup> on Sundays after public worship, was renewed, and the book re-issued by Charles. As before mentioned, James I. was the author of the book in 1618, but afterwards withdrew it. The Puritans strongly opposed this edict, which was considered an act of violence to Puritan feeling, instigated as it was by Archbishop Laud of Canterbury, the head and front of the High-Church party.

William Prinne, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, who wrote *Histrio-Mastix* and *Canterburies Doom*, in which, with caustic virulence, he denounced the pleasures and recreations of the time, was most unmercifully treated for so doing. The Star Chamber disbarred him, put him in the pillory at Westminster and Cheapside, inflicted a fine of £5000,<sup>3</sup> cut off both his ears (which were afterwards sewed on again<sup>4</sup>), and sentenced him to imprisonment for life. Those of the clergy who refused to read the decree from their pulpits were punished by deprivation of their livings.

Richard Baxter (1615-1691) records, "I cannot forget that in my youth, . . . we lost the labours of some of our conformable godly teachers, for not reading

<sup>1</sup> *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

<sup>2</sup> Cobbett's *Parliamentary History* relates, that after Cromwell came into power *The Book of Sports* was ordered to be burnt by the hand of the common hangman in Cheapside.

<sup>3</sup> Rushworth says £1000, see L. A. Govett's *King's Book of Sports*.    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

publicly the book of sports and dancing, on the Lord's Day. . . . We could not, on the Lord's Day, either read a chapter, or pray, or sing a psalm, or catechise, or instruct a servant, but with the noise of the pipe and tabor, and the shoutings in the street, continually in our ears. . . . And when the people by the book were allowed to play and dance out of public service time, they could so hardly break off their sports, that many a time the reader was fain to stay till the piper and players would give over. Sometimes the morris-dancers would come into the church, in all their linen, and scarfs, and antic-dresses, with morris bells jingling at their legs; and as soon as common-prayer was read, did haste out presently to their play again."

Stubb's *Anatomie of Abuses* contains a detailed description of this sort of revelry. He was a Puritanical writer in Elizabeth's time, and as bearing upon this subject, some of his records are worth repeating here. After describing the assembling, election of the Lord of Misrule, and details of costume, he says the men "sometimes laide a crosse over their shoulders and neckes, borrowed for the most part of their pretie Mopsies and loving Bessies, for bussing them in the darke. . . . they have their hobbie-horses, their dragons and other antiques, together with their baudie pipers, and thundering drummers to strike up the Devil's Daunce withall; . . . and in this sorte they goe to the church (though the minister be at prayer or preaching) dauncing and swinging their hankerchieves over their heades in the church like Devils incarnate, . . . the foolish people they looke and stare, they laugh . . . and mount upon the forms and pewes

to see the goodly pegeants solemnized in this sort, then after this about the church they goe againe and againe and so foorth into the church-yarde . . . and dance all that day, and peradventure all that night too. And thus these terrestrial *furies* spend the Sabbath-day.”<sup>1</sup>

In such an atmosphere of social disorder, the game of bowls would very naturally degenerate in its character.



RINNE says that Laud “used to play bowls this very day (Sunday)—a pretty archiepiscopall Sabbath recreation.” It is also recorded that Knox, when visiting Calvin on the Sunday, found him playing the game.<sup>2</sup>

That the common people took advantage of the license, authorised by *The Book of Sports*, is not to be wondered at, when those in high places had so little regard for the day of rest.

John Earle, Bishop of Worcester, chaplain and tutor to Prince Charles, had no love either for *bowls* or bowlers, to judge by his writings. His *Microcosmography*, published about 1628, contains, among other graphic sketches of character, this description of the play at *bowls*. “No antick screws men’s bodies into such strange flexures, and you would thinke them here

<sup>1</sup> Douce’s *Illustrations of Shakespeare*.

<sup>2</sup> L. A. Govett, *King’s Book of Sports*.

senseless to speak sense to their bowl, and put their trust in intreaties for a good cast"; adding, that bowling was celebrated for three things wasted, viz.:—"Time, money, and curses."<sup>1</sup>

Charles II. was nevertheless a lover of the game. Grammont, in his *Memoirs*, describes his frequent visits to Tunbridge for bowls; and Clarendon says he went to a house called Picadilly, where were bowling-greens and gentry of the best quality.<sup>2</sup>

When Charles was escaping after the battle of Worcester, disguised, in company with Mrs. Lane, "they came to Mrs. Norton's house, near Bristol, and it being a holiday, they saw many people about a bowling-green that was before the door; and the first man the king saw was a chaplain of his own . . . who was sitting upon the rails to see how the bowlers played."<sup>3</sup>

Pepys records, 1661, "played with our wives at bowles"; and in 1662 he went to Whitehall Gardens, "where lords and ladies are now at bowles."

Surely to the games themselves are not to be attributed the wild excesses of the time; but rather the gathering together of a large number of people bent on pleasure, and unrestrained by fear of the law. They were also actuated by a spice of that religious bigotry, which induces a desire to do violence to the feelings

<sup>1</sup> Sir Walter Scott alludes to this *waste*, in *The Fortunes of Nigel*, chap. xiii., when Dalgarno and companions "had laughed sufficiently" at the recent duel between the bravo captain and the disguised apprentice, "some took possession of the alley, late the scene of the combat, and put the field to its proper use of a bowling-ground, and it soon resounded with all the terms of the game, as 'run, run-rub, rub-hold biaz, you infernal trundling timber,' thus making good the saying, that three things are thrown away in a bowling-green, namely time, money, and oaths."

<sup>2</sup> *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

<sup>3</sup> Lord Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion*.

of the opposite party,<sup>1</sup> a by no means uncommon thing now-a-days.

We have not to go very far back in the history of "sober, religious Scotland," to find a parallel in Sunday desecration. Burns's satirical poem, *The Holy Fair*, may be taken as a sample, though, happily, bowling is not mentioned. Three of the stanzas may not be unwelcome to the reader, if only as a variety.

"Upon a simmer Sunday morn,  
When Nature's face is fair,  
I walked forth to view the corn,  
An' sniff the caller air.  
The rising sun o'er Galston Muirs,  
Wi' glorious light was glintin';  
The hares were hirplin' down the furs,  
The lav'rocks they were chantin'  
Fu' sweet that day."

Meeting three hizzies he "speers" the name of one of them,

"My name is Fun—your cronic dear,  
The nearest friend ye ha'e;  
An' this is Superstition here,  
An' that's Hypocrisy.  
I'm gaun to Mauchline Holy Fair,<sup>2</sup>  
To spen' an hour in daffin',  
Gin ye'll go there, yon runkl'd pair,  
We will get famous laughin'  
At them this day.

<sup>1</sup> Wakes and funeral rites furnished opportunities, in old times, for games and "ongauns" not altogether meeting our present-day ideas of decency. Achilles instituted games at Greek funerals; some of the prizes awarded were curious, viz., handsome captive girls skilled in needlework; a mare; a mule; a fat handsome wild bull, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Sacrament Sunday. In these times of uncertain harvest-weather, and *a propos* of Sunday keeping, the following note from I. Disraeli's *Comentaries*

“Here, some are thinkin’ on their sins,  
 An’ some upo’ their claes;  
 Ane curses feet that fyl’d his shins,  
 Another sighs and prays:  
 On this hand sits a chosen swatch,  
 Wi’ screwed-up, grace-proud faces;  
 On that, a set o’ chaps, at watch  
 Thrang winkin’ at the lasses  
 To chairs that day.”

“During the Commonwealth bowls went out of fashion. Bowling-greens and bowling-alleys became the resort of queer folk,” though generally indulged in all over England towards the end of the seventeenth century. Unfortunately *public* bowling-greens were, nearly always, attached to taverns, ale houses, and inns, which surrounded them with an air of disrepute. Sir John Fielding, writing in 1776, warns strangers against coffee-houses and says, that if anyone “finds in you the least inclination to cards, dice, the billiard-table, bowling-green, or any other sort of gaming, you are morally sure of being taken in.” This only goes to illustrate how very necessary it was to have legal restrictions on the ownership of such places, and penalties for indulging in the game unlawfully. Stow, in his time, laments that “by the closing in of common grounds, our archers, for want of roome to shoot abroad, crepe into bowling-alleys and ordinary dicing-houses, nearer

*on the Life of Charles I.* is interesting. Constantine (321 A.D.) observed both Saturday and Sunday as days of rest. He issued the following decree, “On the venerable day of the Sun, let all the magistrates and people residing in the cities rest, and let all the workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their labour, because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain-growing or vine-planting—lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven be lost.”

home, where they have room enough to hazard their money at unlawful games."

Restrictions naturally followed the unbridled indulgence in gaming at bowls and the like, but the inventive faculties of the gamesters were only stimulated to contrive other forms of games, in order to evade the law and gratify their absorbing passion.

*Bubble-the-justice* or *Bumble-puppy* was one of the "many imagined plays" and was a substitute for nine-pins or cloish; a ball or large marble being rolled into a set of holes, suggesting a kind of ground-bagatelle or "nine-holes." A writer to Mr. Hone in 1841 says he remembers at Mary-le-bone Park the "old queen's Head and Artichoke" with its long skittle and bumble-puppy grounds. Herrick in *Hesperides* (1648) mentions this game—

"Raspe plays at nine-holes, and 'tis known he gets  
Many a teaser by his game and bets:  
But of his gettings there's but little sign,  
When one hole wastes more than he gets by nine."

A word picture of an old English squire, a Mr. Hastings, has particular interest for the bowler. He wore green cloth, kept hounds and hawks of all sorts, and among his out-door sports he used to play with "round sand bowles" on a long bowling-green in a large park, near the manor, the said park being "well stocked with deer, rabbits, and fish-ponds." This fine old English gentleman-bowler lived a hundred years, did not wear spectacles, could mount his cob unaided, and had all his faculties to the last.<sup>1</sup>

Up till 1735-7 the public had free access to Mary-le-bone Gardens. The following announcement in con-

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Drake in *Hutchin's Dorsetshire*. Hone's *Every Day Book*.

nection with the pleasure-giving resort appeared in the *Evening Post* of 19th March (1835, 6, or 7)—

“On Monday next 31st March the bowling-green,  
Will be opened, by order of the nobility and gentry.”<sup>1</sup>

In addition to those places already mentioned as having been associated with the game of bowls, and in proof of how much the game was in vogue, the following may be noted. The residence of Charles Cotton, poet (adopted son of Isack Walton), at Ashbourne, on the river Dee, Derbyshire, “had a bowling-green close by.” J. M. Walker mentions Bowling-Green House (Enfield, Putney, and Chigwell); Bowles, a country seat of the Stewart family; the Bowl Inn, St. Giles; Bowling-Green Lane, Clerkenwell; and Bowling-pin Alley, Chancery Lane.



Hampton Court Palace had a bowling-green, which is now a quaint Dutch garden, with a fountain in the centre. The terrace walks round the green are still extant, but when the conversion took place is not certain.

<sup>1</sup> Morrison Scatcherd.

"William III. was so unfortunately charmed with the place that he did his utmost to ruin it altogether by the exercise of his barbarous Dutch taste. However, he really did improve the gardens.<sup>1</sup>" So it may be assumed *he* did it. Frank E. Cox has peopled the old green, in his picture, "Hampton Court in the olden Time," with Queen Anne players, very appropriately.

In the North of England the love for the game is old and deep-rooted, as is testified by the large number of greens in and about Newcastle-on-Tyne.

A booklet<sup>2</sup> recently published at Newcastle contains the following:—"If *seniores priores* is to be followed out, *the* Newcastle Bowling Club should be placed at the head of most of the clubs in this island—bowling or otherwise—as it is now in its third century." The date given of its foundation is 1657. Quoting Sykes in his *Local Records*, "a tavern was also built, with a balcony projecting from the front . . . from whence the spectators could behold the bowlers. It was an ancient custom for the Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriff of Newcastle, accompanied by a great number of persons, to proceed every year, at the feasts of Easter and Whitsuntide, to this place, with the mace, sword, and cap of maintenance carried before them." Another ancient custom, still observed, is dining every Friday in the club-house. "For about two centuries, 'Beef and pies at 4 o'clock, 1/,' was the standing dish." Mr. Arron Watson, in the same little book, says that "Charles (King Charles I.) was an enthusiastic bowler, and there was a bowling-green in Newcastle at least as early as when he was brought here a prisoner by the Scots." This would make the first green

<sup>1</sup> Barbara Clay Finch.

<sup>2</sup> Hodge's *Annual*, 1892.

ten years older, or it could not have been on the *first green* “*in this island*” that Charles enjoyed his game, as he was a dead man in 1649. Mr. Watson also scouts the idea of the existence of “the genuine game of bowls” up to and inclusive of Henry VIII.’s reign, and “suspects” it was “stone-throwing”<sup>1</sup> that was meant, when bowling was alluded to by earlier writers.

He then very ingeniously formulates a theory of his own as to the origin of the game of bowls. It reads like a *goak*. Based on a view of a picture by David Teniers<sup>2</sup> in the National Gallery, the suggestion is, that two kinds of *Dutch Cheese* (Edam and Gouda) being serviceable both as playthings and comestibles, were the real, live, genuine bowls of our forefathers. “Thus (says Mr. Watson) let us imagine, did the Dutchman commence bowling, possibly using their bowls for lunch if by any chance or collision they fell to pieces. Ultimately they took to bowls of wood, but they have adhered to the shapes of the national cheese to this day. This theory of the origin of the game is at least feasible.” Rip-van-Winkle’s “thunder and lightning” theory is not in it, and it seems almost a pity that Mr. Watson’s delightfully ingenuous hypothesis should be shadowed by facts; but as Burns says, “Facts are chiels that winna ding.” *Verb. sat sap.*

Penrith and Brampton are both old greens, dating back to 1778 and 1764 respectively.

Though there may be doubts about the claim of the

<sup>1</sup> Northumberland-bowls is a combination of skill and strength; a number of players, each with a bowl, striving to attain a given point in the fewest number of casts—half golf and half bowling.

<sup>2</sup> The picture referred to by Mr. Watson is No. 951 in *N.G. Catalogue*, “A Game of Bowls,” by David Teniers the elder (Flemish, 1582-1649), and rather antedates the Newcastle green.

Bath Lane Club, Newcastle, to priority among the clubs "in this island," it must be conceded that the Newcastle Corporation take the lead in open encouragement of the pastime. About 1879-80, recognising the necessity of providing healthy out-door amusement, they constructed six public bowling-greens in their public parks, for the benefit of a population largely composed of hard workers. On all hands, it is agreed their action has been amply justified by results, and to-day there are no more popularly supported institutions than the bowling-clubs of Newcastle; and also Gateshead which so promptly followed the lead.





## CHAPTER IV.

### THE GAME IN SCOTLAND.

AT what exact period the game found its way “over the border” into Scotland is not fixable, but it may safely be presumed that it was somewhere in the sixteenth century. One writer has “rushed in” and designated “Bowls as *par excellence* the national Scotch game.” There is a proverb ending with “angels fear to tread,” (“to disremember de fust part” is only common decency,) and to accept such a statement seriously would indicate credulity of a pronounced kind; though the game is now perhaps better known and more generally popular in Scotland than in any part of the world.

A history of Haddington mentions, among other institutions of that town, “a Bowling club established in 1709, which minutes of council confirm”;<sup>1</sup> but as Glasgow has a record of more than a hundred years prior to this reputed oldest green in Scotland, Glasgow, chronologically, takes the lead.

An extract from the Annals of the Kirk Session of Glasgow, 24th April, 1595, reads—“The session

<sup>1</sup> *Mitchell's Manual.*

directed the Drum to go through the Town, that there be no Bickering nor Plays on Sundays, either by old or young. Games, Golf, Alley, Bowls, &c., are Forbidden on Sunday, as also that no person go to Ruglen to see Plays on Sunday.”<sup>1</sup>

Clelland<sup>2</sup> states that about 1695 the Town Council of Glasgow disposed of a piece of ground, to one Mungo Cochrane, for a public bowling-green with certain privileges, which were afterwards abrogated. This early bowling-green was known as the Candle Riggs green; though it was not till 1724 that Candleriggs Street was projected and begun. The green extended from the old Herald Buildings, corner of Bell Street and Candleriggs, to a house which forms the entrance to the City-Hall, and extended back to Police-office Lane. So late as 1780 “there was a broad Stagnant Ditch, full of Tadpoles, along the front of the Bowling-green.”<sup>3</sup> About 1707, the ground, upon which Bell Street, Candleriggs, etc., is now formed, teeming with busy life, was “then cornfields . . . few houses



built and these covered with thatch.” The scene conjured up in the mind’s eye, of both green and

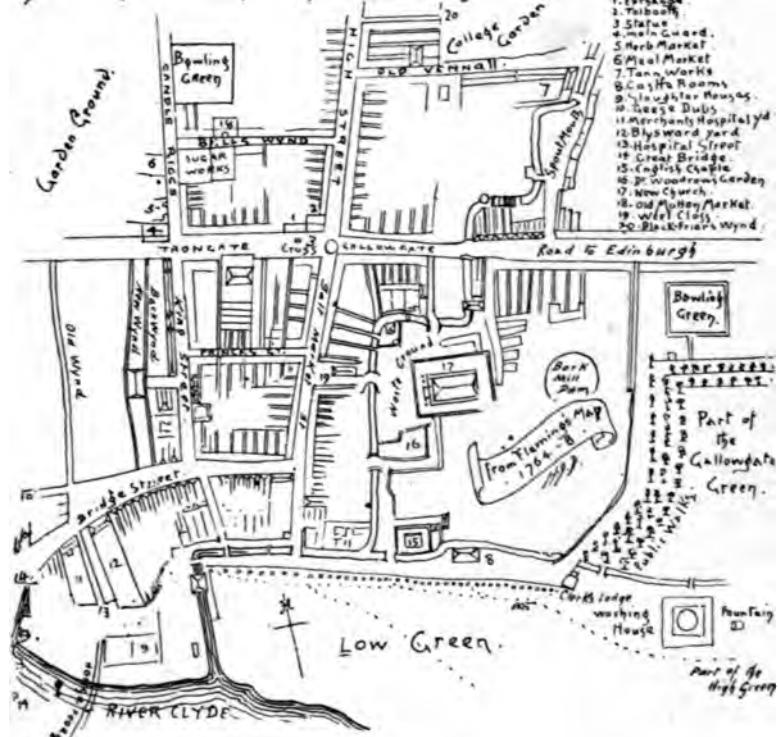
<sup>1</sup> *Glasghu Facies.*

<sup>2</sup> *Annals of Glasgow.*

<sup>3</sup> *Glasghu Facies.*

players, at this period, is picturesque and quaint. Being "good queen Anne's" time, we would clothe the players in an infinite variety of costume, from the cavalier and courtier to the sober toned Presbyterian. One can imagine the wealthy burgher and tobacco-lord taking their way to the bowling-green after the cares of the day are over, and losing all dignity of deportment during the mild excitement of "ye anciente pastime."

Sketch Map of Part of City of Glasgow in 1750, showing Green, Candleriggs, & Gallowgate.



Dr. John Aitkin describes Mr. Dunlop's house as the best in the Candleriggs. "It not only had a rural view to the west, but also was open and airy to

the front of the Candleriggs, in consequence of being situated directly opposite to the bowling-green there. It commanded a complete view of the Gentlemen Bowlers at play on the Green Sward of that place of Sport; and from his front Windows Mr. Dunlop could hear the crack of the Balls and the well-known Cry of 'Bowler you, Sir!'"<sup>1</sup>

Contemporary with the Candleriggs green, about 1750 there was a green in the Gallowgate belonging to John Orr of Barrowfield. According to *The Glasgow Journal*, 30th Oct., 1766, John Struthers, maltman, became the proprietor, and it was turned into a public-green.

The following advertisement fully describes the property of Barrowfield's Bowling-Green and Butts,<sup>2</sup> behind the Round Croft—

"There is a beautiful Lodging and Pertinents thereof, and a curious Bowling-Green at Back thereof for the diversion of Gamesters at Bowls thereintill, and a Stately Pair of Butts for accomodating the Archers of our City thereat, and other Gentlemen adjacent, all well Fenced and Enclosed, by John Orr of Barrowfield, Esq., lying betwixt his Village of Caltoun and the East Part of Glasgow."—*M<sup>r</sup> Ure*.

The "Old Burnt Barns" public-house, dating back to 1679, situated at the corner of St. Mungo Street and Great Hamilton Street, is close to the site of this old green, which was bounded on the north by the Gallow-

<sup>1</sup> In addition to this quotation from Dr. Gordon's book, there is the following:—"At the corner of Bell Street and Candleriggs, the second police office in Glasgow was up one Stair, here long known as 'The Herald Office Closs.' This was a house in the country, looking out into the Bowling Green of the Candleriggs, when its former occupant was John Alston, Esq.," about 1750.

<sup>2</sup> "The Butts" (afterwards the Infantry Barracks), where the "Weapon Shaw" used to be engaged in, previous to the Union, must not be confounded with the Barrowfield Butts.

gate, and on the east by Kent Street of the present day. Doubtless the bowlers of the period fought their battles over again within its time-honoured walls, and, as a link in past history of the game in Glasgow, is a most interesting relic.

Dr. Gordon says that the Gallowgate Bowling-Green "was supplanted by its rival in the Candleriggs," but when it ceased to exist is indefinite.



In 1804 there flourished "The Society of Bowlers," probably the pioneer *club*<sup>1</sup> in Glasgow. In that year it is recorded that "the pleasing amusement of bowling is practised by many gentlemen in the city. Several of them, some years ago, purchased a piece of ground at the back of the Alms-House,<sup>2</sup> which they converted into a bowling-green for the use of the society. The fee of admission for a new member is ten shillings and sixpence," and in a footnote the same writer says,

<sup>1</sup> Jones' *Glasgow Directory*, 1787, makes no mention of a Bowling *Club*, though members' names of the Golf Club are given.

<sup>2</sup> The Town's Hospital in Clyde Street, west corner of the Stockwell.

“Another bowling-green is situated in the Candleriggs Street, upon the east side, the property of Robert Crauford, Esq., of Possil. The person who rents it admits those who wish to amuse themselves in this manner for payment of a trifle.”<sup>1</sup> In another work, published two years later, is the following:—“Neither are the amusements conducive to health wanting here; at the back of the Alms-House is a large piece of ground used as a Bowling-green, and another in Candleriggs.”

The Candleriggs green was re-acquired by special powers in 1817, for the purpose of increasing the market accommodation. Clelland states in a footnote that after the green in Candleriggs was turned into the Bazaar, “there were still three bowling-greens for the accommodation of the public, viz., at St. Crispin Place, Kirk Street; Sauchiehall Road; and Hutchesontown.” Another writer,<sup>2</sup> 1821, says—“Many citizens being partial to the exercise of bowling, two greens have been prepared for their accommodation—one in Shauchyhall Road and another in Hutchesontown. The former bowling-green, near the High Church, is now occupied by buildings.”

Kirk Street was that portion of the main thoroughfare continuing High Street, beginning at the Drygate, to Castle Street.<sup>3</sup> It is also recorded that the ruins of St. Nicholas Hospital were removed in 1805 to give place to St. Nicholas Street. It stood near the Castle, on the east side of Kirk Street. The presumption is that the Kirk Street bowling-green was

<sup>1</sup> James Denholm, of the Academy, Argyle Street, 1804.

<sup>2</sup> *Glasgow Delineated.*

<sup>3</sup> *G.P.O. Directory, 1828-9.*

on the west side of Kirk Street, in the grounds of the Hospital, but where the exact site was is not quite clear. The old Hutchesontown green is even more difficult to locate, probably St. Ninian's Croft.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The following items may help the reader to form some idea of the social condition of Glasgow during the earlier history of bowling in the city. 1770—Sabbath observance very strict ; the people did not sweep house, make beds, or cook food, and only opened as much of the window shutters as enabled them to move about. 1775—Queen Street was then called Cow Lone, and derived its name from the fact that the town-herd drove the cattle of the burgesses through it. They were milked on the Cowcaddens. The herd carried a big horn to call the cattle, and was in the pay of the authorities. It was then a rough hedged pathway. 1778—Umbrellas first introduced into Glasgow. 1782—George Square begun to be built, and up till 1782 one house stood alone in the field and accommodated two families. This was called the New-town. 1799—The circus in Jamaica Street was fitted for public worship and was opened as the Tabernacle by Revd. Rowland Hill of London, on the 28th Feby. 1800—There were 27 Sedan-chairs on hire in the city. 1802—Gordon, Bath, Suffolk, and Portland Streets were opened. 1804—William Harley erected a reservoir in Nile Street, and sold water,

Sauchyhall Road was in all probability the birthplace of the "Willowbank," which claims to have the oldest record—if we except The Society of Bowlers—of any club in Glasgow. There can be little doubt that the number of willow trees or saughs—a prominent feature of the locality—furnished the title of the club. Dr. Mathieson,<sup>1</sup> writing in 1849, says that "fifty years



ago . . . Sauchiehall and its vicinity . . . was in most places, during wet weather, only a quagmire. at one half-penny the stoupfull, which he collected through the streets of the city. 1821—Population was 147,043 (Henderson's *Annals of Glasgow*).

<sup>1</sup> See also *Glasgow Past and Present*.

Then it was with difficulty that the foot-passenger could thread his path between the willows, weeds, stunted hedges, and mud, even when impelled by a love of adventure; as for anyone riding there in a wet season, he soon found himself in 'a slough of despond.' " Senex states "that this portion of the suburbs of Glasgow was originally called Sauchiehaugh."

A few items in the history of the Willowbank Club may be interesting to not a few. The sketch map shows the position of the green in 1821, and W. W. Mitchell says he well remembers "having played on the green, which was situated at the then west end of Bath Street, on or near the spot where Adelaide Place now stands, in 1828"; and that in 1831 the ground was feued, which necessitated the choice of a spot east of Elmbank Street. "It was opened for play in 1833, and continued open and in possession of the club until Martinmas, 1859."

Since that time the club has been in undisturbed possession of the ground off Woodlands Road, in Willowbank Street.

The champions for the years 1833-4-5 were, respectively, Gavin Walker, Thomas Ovington, and Andrew Milne. The earliest preserved list of members and transactions were in a book kept by the then treasurer, John Whitehead, in 1836. He was an ardent bowler, and was skip "of what was then well known and long after celebrated as the *Wingate Rink*." He also bequeathed £100 to aid the making of a new green for the use of the club. A complete list of the members for 1836, being the earliest record extant, will be found on page 88 of appendix.

The "Albany" comes next in order, being founded

on the 13th May, 1833. Its first green was in Stirling Road, and continued there till its increasing membership demanded more room; and in 1847 the club removed to Glebe Street, behind the Deaf and Dumb Institution. Still expanding, a larger green, the present one with commodious bowl-house, etc., became the home of the club in 1856.



The "Wellcroft" (first holders of the Eglinton Cup) was established in January, 1835, and the green was situated on the east side of Surrey Street, Laurieston, up to 1851, when owing to the district becoming too confined, the club opened two splendid greens, bowl-house, dwelling-house for superintendent, and curling pond, near the head of Eglinton Street, immediately south of the Cavalry Barracks, on 6th August of that year. Here the club flourished till 1876, when the "Iron Horse" demanded a roadway through their premises. Another move was made to the northwest corner of the Queen's Park, where they have not only continued to enjoy "ye anciente game" as the seasons come round, but have cultivated good fellowship and beautified their surroundings with nature's floral treasures.

The superintendent's house (see illustration) is all that is left of the club property of 1851, and may still be seen at Eglinton Railway Station. About forty years ago, at the corner of Cavendish Street and Eglinton Street, "The Bowling-Green Tavern" was a favourite resort of the officers of the Cavalry Barracks opposite, who held high revel on the bowling-green attached thereto. Mr. M'Clure was the proprietor; a worthy sire of the senior partner in one of the largest printing establishments in the city, and others who have made their mark in city life. Major Scott of the 15th Hussars, a relative of Sir Walter, with other notables from the barracks, enjoyed the "trundling of the timber" on this old-fashioned green. The episode of one of the officers riding on horseback through the Argyle Arcade is well within the recollection of many of the citizens, and indicates the "high old time" they must have had.



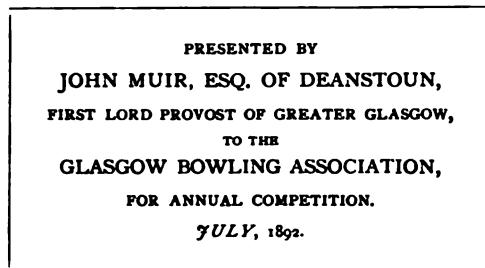
HE "Whitevale," instituted in 1836, is next in order, and their commodious club-house (which is a distinct advance, having a separate committee-room)

and two large greens attached, mark well the progress of the game in the city. The reader is referred to the list of clubs in the appendix for further information on more recent clubs.

Last year, Sir John Muir, Bart., of Deanstoun, ex-Lord Provost of Glasgow, presented a beautiful cup,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The makers are Messrs. Walker & Hall, Glasgow, who have produced a work of really artistic merit.

to be competed for by Glasgow clubs at their Annual Tournament. It was won for the first time by the Willowbank. The inscription reads as follows:—



Edinburgh gentlemen played the game with much appreciation and much benefit, as the following extracts will clearly demonstrate, as early as the beginning of the eighteenth century. Excerpt from minute of meeting of the Governors of Heriot's Hospital, held 6th June, 1768 —“The same day the committee reported that they

having considered the Representation and Petition of the Gentlemen Bowlers in Edinburgh, craving a Lease of the present Bowling Green behind the Hospital and the Inner Garden to the East of it commonly called the wilderness, for twenty-one years, to be levelled and laid down by them in two Bowling Greens for such adequate rent as the Governors should judge reasonable . . . that an exercise so beneficial to the health of the inhabitants might not be totally lost for want of proper Bowling greens. . . . That the inhabitants . . . shall have free access to the walks of the outer garden, but shall not have access to the walks of the Inner

Gardens, without the consent of the Tacksmen. Octavo, The Tacksmen should be obliged to prevent the use of Keill's Bowling Ring and such like diversions within any part of the Gardens"; they were also to "prevent the smuggling and running of goods," and "that no musical or other public Entertainment whatsoever is to be carried on in any part of the Gardens without the consent of the governors is first obtained." On the 20th June the tack was signed by "Mr. Joseph Williamson, Advocate, and Thomas Mabane, one of the clerks in the Post Office."<sup>1</sup>

Allan Ramsay, in *The Gentle Shepherd*, published 1725, makes Mause say to Baldy—

"I'll try my art to gar the bowls run right,"  
from which it may be assumed he was one of the

<sup>1</sup> This was known later as the "Waverley Club" green.



“gentlemen bowlers” of his time or had knowledge of the game at least.

The author of *Waverley* has many allusions to the game in his works, and it is by no means unlikely that he, Robert Burns, “North,” and Hogg, had visited the green in Heriot’s Gardens.

“Perhaps if bowls row right, and right succeeds,  
Ye yet may follow where a Douglas leads.”

*Burns.*<sup>1</sup>

The Ettrick Shepherd in *Noctes Ambrosianae*, 1828, speaking of a skull remarks—

“There’s nae reason for ca’ in apon’t for a sang, true as its ear ance was, and its tongue like silver . . . ony mair than there is for playin’ bowls wi’t on the green.”

It is much to the credit of the Edinburgh authorities, that public bowling-greens, recently constructed and financed by them, have been so successful. The “second city” must wake up, and if some of the sentimental “faddists” would spare a little of their valuable time to the promotion of the *solid* good of the community, public bowling-greens would soon be an accomplished fact not only in Glasgow, but in every centre of industry and commerce.

According to Bishop Pocock, Lanark had a bowling-green on the site of the old castle.<sup>2</sup> He saw the people of the town playing when he visited it in 1750.<sup>3</sup>

Tom Bicket’s Bowling-Green, Kilmarnock, “under the patronage of the gentry,” dates back to 1740. In a Minute of Council, 5th March, 1764, mention is

<sup>1</sup> Quoted from additional lines in Cromeck’s *Reliques*.

<sup>2</sup> A map of Peebles, 1775, shows a bowling-green on the Castle Hill.

<sup>3</sup> Brown’s *Manual*.

made of "a shooting prize of £5 having been placed, about the year 1740, in the hands of Mr. Paterson, towards erecting (?) a Bowling-green and purchasing bowls, as being thought a more agreeable diversion than shooting."<sup>1</sup> W. W. Mitchell,<sup>2</sup> "guide, philosopher, and friend" of bowlers for thirty years or more, had much to say of this green. He played his first bowl on it in 1814, at the age of eleven. It was the custom then, he tells us, to play with three bowls each, the

bowls graduated in their bias by means of lead-loading at the centre inside.

Ayrshire and Glasgow (in good-humoured rivalry, as becometh all good bowlers) run one another very hard for first honours. By reference to table on page 88 of Appendix, it will be seen that, of clubs established prior to 1850 inclusive, Glasgow and

Ayrshire are about equal. Perhaps to this equality is due the keen rivalry which has existed since 1855;

<sup>1</sup> M'Kay's *History of Kilmarnock*.

<sup>2</sup> Mitchell's *Manual of Bowl-Playing* was first published in 1864, and contained rules and laws of the game, etc., drawn up by him in 1849, and which have hitherto been generally adopted as a standard, wherever the Scotch style of game is played. The Scottish Bowling Association rules will, of course, supersede them.



when the annual matches were first instituted under the immediate patronage of the then Earl of Eglinton.

Two matches were played that year; one on the 2nd August, in Ayrshire, with 32 rinks, the other on the 9th August, in Glasgow, with 36 rinks. Glasgow won on both occasions by 282 and 460 points respectively. The matches were played by time, viz., three hours; since then "31 heads" has been the rule. Unfortunately, the weather was so inclement the following year,—in Ayrshire,—that no win was scored for either side.



EVER memorable will be the year 1857 in the annals of Ayrshire and Glasgow bowling, when Archibald William, thirteenth Earl of Eglinton, presented for competition that beautiful trophy, yclept "The Eglinton Cup." The first contest for it took place on Tuesday, 11th August, in

Glasgow, the earl taking part in the game on Willowbank green as driver of the middle rink; 5 rinks played on this green.<sup>1</sup> Glasgow won by 335 shots; and Wellcroft, having the "highest up" rink, had the

<sup>1</sup> The following incident during this game is related by Mitchell. His lordship having played his bowl, as instructed by a demonstrative admirer, the latter, as the bowl coursed up the green, began exclaiming with increasing emphasis, "I like you, my lord! I like you, my lord!! I like you, my lord!!! but as the bowl passed without doing any good, he suddenly exclaimed, "O lord, you're too strong."

honour of being the cup-holders for the first time, the earl making the presentation.

This same year, the earl also presented a Gold Bowl to be competed for annually, between clubs on his estates and clubs in the county of Ayr, with a view to training, and being better prepared to meet their opponents in future. Tabulated results show the wisdom of this course. Three years previously, he had given a Silver Bowl to be competed for by clubs on his estates.

These several gifts, along with his going in and out among the bowlers as a player, show very definitely how his practice and precept regarding outdoor sports of a sound nature went hand in hand. Ayrshire may well be proud to claim Burns, bonnie lassies, and a bowling patron, who are hard to equal. To quote the earl, when speaking of outdoor games—bowls especially—he said he might refer to other games, but “this class of outdoor amusements was, in this country, to be prized; not more for their exhilarating and healthful character, than for the humanising influence they exert on all who take part in them, and the occasion they afford for neighbourly and agreeable meetings.” “Without compromising my own loyalty, I can assure you that however delighted and dignified I may have felt myself amongst royal personages, I am at all times more happy and more content amongst the curlers and bowlers of my own country.” “Much as I value the game for the pleasure there is in playing it, I value it still more for the way in which it brings classes of the community together, and promotes good fellowship between the town and the country.” “I feel certain that the encouragement of such games as

curling and bowling, especially among the poorer classes of our countrymen, will do more to promote their comfort and welfare, and tend to their good conduct, than all the beer bills and Sunday-trading bills the legislature has ever passed."

Since his day many noblemen and gentlemen have followed suit, in fostering the game. A reference to page 90 of Appendix will show how much it is being dovetailed into social life, and also its advancement in position as a pastime. The rapid growth of the game in popularity may be noticed in the increase of clubs since 1870, when a list was published comprising 138 in Scotland. Mitchell says that in 1882 there were 364 clubs, with an aggregate of 30,000 members; and the statement was made at the opening of Burnbank Bowling Club Bazaar, 1892, that there were 34,000 or 35,000 bowlers in Scotland. A list of clubs will be found on page 99 of Appendix.

W. W. MITCHELL.



## CHAPTER V.

### THE GAME ABROAD.



MONG out-door sports no game takes a firmer hold and increases in popularity so rapidly as Bowling. In a marked degree is this so, among foreign peoples.

Though we have *not* yet reached the separation stage in Irish affairs, still, in mention of the game across the water, *i.e.*, furth of Great Britain, Ireland must rank with those countries where the game is only par-

tially indulged in. It is remarkable too, that where "merchants most do congregate," there is found the bowler. Belfast has four clubs — the Belfast, Belmont, Ulster, and the Corporation clubs—and in Dublin there is the Kenilworth. Annual contests with

Ayrshire and Glasgow clubs betoken a growing interest in the game among the brethren in the Green Isle; and International matches may not be *very* far distant.

We hear of four clubs in Toronto; also clubs in Hamilton, Montreal, London, and Quebec, Canada, where they are nearly all combination bowling and curling clubs; Boston, Philadelphia, and New York, U.S.A., have their clubs; even far-away Calcutta and Kurachee have their golf and bowling clubs. The Japs have also taken to it, and every year the export of Glasgow-made bowls is increasing to South Africa, etc., etc.

With our colonial brethren in Australia, its rapid growth in popularity is phenomenal; and while Scottish bowlers can *now* boast an association (to wit *The Scottish Bowling Association*), the Australians have had the benefit of such control since 1880, when the Victorian and New South Wales Bowling Associations were established, comprising many clubs. Their rules of the game are much the same as ours, but some interesting variations may be noted. For instance, rule 6, V.B.A., says, "The jack shall be round and made of wood, not less than  $3\frac{1}{4}$  nor more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, and shall be not less than 15 nor more than 17 ounces in weight, and shall be white in colour"; while the N.S.W.B.A. enacts that "the size of the jack shall not be less than two inches, nor more than two and a half inches in diameter."<sup>1</sup> To us rule 20, N.S.W.B.A., reads curiously, "The bowling season shall commence on the first day of October and end

<sup>1</sup> In the English game, each single-handed player has a jack made of wood the same bias as his bowls; so that by observing the run of the jack, he is the better enabled to play his bowl.

on the last day of September." So the Antipodean bowler "goes it" all the year round. It is probably use and wont, but we have an idea that our climatic variations, which compel change in our amusements, are in this respect preferable.<sup>1</sup>

Is the day near, when say four *crack* rinks of bowlers will be sent out to play the best bowlers in the colonies? It is quite certain a deputation of colonial bowlers would be heartily welcomed and hospitably received here. Cricketers<sup>2</sup> made a start in this direction more than thirty years ago; why not bowlers? Perhaps in the near future this idea may be taken up and carried to a successful issue.

#### LIGNUM VITÆ.

While foreign climes are in the mind a word or so about the wood from which bowls are made may be a fitting conclusion to this chapter. Mr. John Wilson, Leazes Park, Newcastle-on-Tyne, fancifully dubs Lignum Vitæ *The Bowlers' Tree*, and gives some interesting information. "Our best lignum vitæ wood," he writes, "is from the city of St. Domingo. It is imported in the round state and usually sold by weight. The plant that produces it is known to botanists and gardeners as the *Guaiacum*. There are three species, all of which bear blue flowers. The lignum vitæ of commerce is furnished by the *Guriacum officinale*, which was introduced into this country in 1694, where it is grown as a stove plant. The substance called

<sup>1</sup>W. W. Mitchell instances a game he enjoyed at Christmas on Willowbank green. See song on page 82.

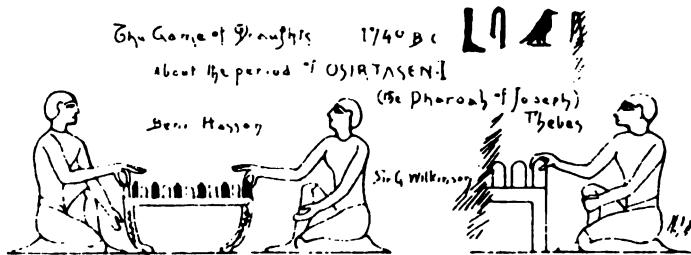
<sup>2</sup>A team of cricketers under Geo. Parr visited America and Canada in 1859; and the first team went to Australia in 1862.—*W. G. Grace*.

gum guaiacum is obtained by bleeding the living tree and by boiling the chips and sawdust of the wood. The bark and capsules are also used in medicine as an aperient. According to Dr. Lindley's *Vegetable Kingdom* the foliage is very deterotive, and is frequently used in the West Indies to scour and whiten floors, which it is said to do better than soap. The lignum vitæ of New Zealand is the wood of the Aki." The amount of wear and tear that lignum vitæ can stand, is the reason of its later application to mechanics where a hard springy resistance is desirable.

The tree in the West Indies grows to a height of from 40 to 50 feet and 14 to 18 ins. diam. It is a deeply rooted evergreen, and Mr. Wilson says in its native climate it is said to be very hardy and enabled to withstand the hurricanes, and retain its greenness in the driest weather.

Rheumatic patients are said to be infallibly cured by a concoction of *gum guaiacum* taken internally. *Verb. sat sap.*





## CHAPTER VI.

### REFLECTIONS.

“Sweet recreation barr’d, what doth ensue,  
But moody and dull melancholy,  
(Kinsman to grim and comfortless despair),  
And, at her heels, a large infectious troop  
Of pale distempers, and foes to life?”

THUS the Bard of Avon deprecates the too close attention to the sordid cares of life, and the term, sweet recreation, may be fitly applied to the game of bowls.

“Shakespeare! that nimble Mercury, thy braine  
Lulls many hundred Argus-eyes asleepe;  
So fit for all thou fashionest thy veine.”

And whether the numerous allusions to *bowls* are strictly in keeping with the *dramatis personae* of Shakespeare’s plays, or not, it is quite clear he was familiar with the game, and endorsed the aphorism that “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.”

“Recreation,” says Fuller, “is a second creation, when weariness hath almost annihilated one’s spirits. It is the breathing of the soul, which otherwise would

be stifled with continual business." Chess and kindred games demand great mental activity, and are more distractive than recreative; the "dual solitude" of these games also renders them less social. Robust athletic exercises, as a means of training the body, are almost second nature to the British youth, and should be carefully fostered; but bowling, as an outdoor pastime, is the most truly recreative, combining as it does the minimum of mental and physical effort with maximum of recuperative energy.

In childhood, many harmless fictions are trotted out for the delectation of the budding intellect, and it would be a pity to part with the happy memories surrounding Santa Claus, The Man in the Moon, or even the large coloured bottles in the druggists' windows; still more should we regret the absence of mythological symbolism, which gives colour and shape to so much that is incomprehensible in this mundane existence. To many

"They are flown,  
Beautiful fictions of our fathers, wove  
In superstition's web, when time was young,  
And fondly loved, and cherished: they are flown  
Before the wand of science!"

but the serpent's bait to mother Eve, the orb of sovereignty, the emblem of love,<sup>1</sup> and the ball-playing of four or five thousand years ago, are they not the progenitors of our *sweet recreation* and to be remembered accordingly; even though the origin of the game is lost in the mists of antiquity?

<sup>1</sup> "The Love Apple," tomato—from the Spanish-American *l'amate*, to love—was believed to influence its consumer's affections, and was looked upon as a love-philtre.

To the votaries of the game in the large wildernesses of stone and lime, the city bowling-green is an oasis ; and to the jaded followers of mammon, the *suggestion* of green grass is a relief, though the turf may have a hard struggle for existence among the smoke, and poisonous vapours, of a great manufacturing centre.

When the game is so keenly enjoyed surrounded by smoke-begrimed walls and towering tenements, how much more are the senses appealed to in the suburbs and country, "far from the madding crowd." Sweet Auburn had surely the game of bowls on its village green when

"All the village train from labour free  
Led up their sports beneath the spreading tree."

Quoting Samuel Rogers in the same vein—

"Twilight's soft dews steal o'er the village green,  
With magic tints to harmonise the scene.  
Stilled is the hum that through the hamlet broke,  
When round the ruins of their ancient oak  
The peasants flocked to hear the minstrel play,  
And games and carols closed the happy day."

Such scenes, in their rural simplicity, seen naturally to suit the game of bowls, where the squire, pastor, and school-master mingled on equal terms with their rustic neighbours, in the sweet recreation, reaping benefits both to body and mind.

Through the senses, how delightful the game is ! In the handling of the shapely polished spheres there is pleasure to the touch, and the very "poétry of motion" is the course of the bowl to the jack ; nature's green mantle is refreshing to the eye ; the ear is soothed by the hum of bees and the songs of birds ;

the scent from flowers and pine groves or new mown hay are delightfully invigorating ; and lastly, the adjournment to the village hostelry, where with "church-warden" and a mug of "home-brewed," their battles are fought over again and the inner-man regaled.

There are, unfortunately, narrow minded souls who think they see all the sins of the decalogue in such innocent pastimes, and predict fearful things in the future, for such as indulge therein. These are they who with "fads" seek the regeneration of mankind by their own particular methods and who

"Compound for sins they are inclined to  
By damning those they have no mind to."

Their lack of common sense may be likened "to an uninstructed bowler" who "thinks to attain the jack by delivering his bowl straightforward upon it."<sup>1</sup> In the words of Archbishop Tillotson, "Scripture commands us to 'provide things honest in the sight of all men ; and by well-doing to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men' ; intimating that there are some things so confessedly good, and owned to be such by so general a vote of mankind, that the worst of men have not the face to open their mouths against them. And it is made the character of a virtuous action if it be lovely and commendable, and of good report ; Philip. iv. 8, 'Whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report,' . . . intimating to us that mankind do generally concur in the praise and commendation of what is virtuous."

Gambling on the bowling-green, which characterised the game in time's past, was simply the outcome of a

<sup>1</sup> Sir Walter Scott.

profligate age. Nowadays there is no suspicion of such a state of matters, though, if *money* prizes continue to be the rule at public tournaments, the love for the game may develop into a sordid hunting after the "filthy lucre," and "pot-hunters" inaugurate the subordination of sport for gain. Good old George Herbert says—

"Play not for gain, but sport. Who playes for more  
Than he can lose with pleasure, stakes his heart";

and it would be a good thing if all bowling-clubs would make a rule, that prizes should, in *all* cases, take the trophy form, say from the modest 2/6 pipe or vesta-box to the lordly vase of high artistic excellence.

So many young men are bowlers now, that the appellation "old man's game" does not hold good, and since kings, queens, and princes have been continually associated with the game for ages, its claim to the titles royal and ancient will be conceded.

Our own "Sea-King's Daughter" is fond of the game. Ladies *do occasionally* join in the game, though the practice is by no means common, and "the wish" is perhaps "father to the thought," that the *custom* of the gentler sex joining their ruder brethren on the green, will be revived at no distant date, and the charge of selfishness, so often heard, withdrawn from "the lords of creation." What sort of commotion would be created if a *seal-skin paletot* or a *duck of a bonnet* was offered as a prize for ladies?—hats and umbrellas are quite common as prizes among the men. There is nothing complicated in the game, and the exertion necessary is not half that of Lawn Tennis.

Socially, few games compare with Bowls where liberty, equality, and fraternity are component parts

of the pastime, and where the seed of many a lifelong friendship has been sown.

“Friendship ! mysterious cement of the soul !  
Sweetener of life ! and solder of society !”

Then there is a *levelling* influence for good *on* the turf, perhaps foreshadowing that equality *under* it which awaits our union with mother earth.

“The lawn-robed prelate and plain presbyter,  
Erewhile that stood aloof, as shy to meet,  
Familiar mingle here, like sister streams  
That some rude interposing rock has split.”

’Tis true, that asperities and ebullitions of temper are not unknown, but exceptions only go to prove the rule, that a very general tolerance of little personal peculiarities exists nowhere in so marked a degree as on the bowling-green, yea, not even in a meeting of ordained clergy. Why do our moral teachers not mingle more in the secular pastimes of the people? In a Clyde watering-place, not a hundred miles from the Gantocks, there are eight or nine *placed* clergymen, of various alphabetical denominations, who are conspicuous by their absence from the *sweet recreation*. “’Tis true, ’tis pity! pity ’tis ’tis true.” Perhaps the impression prevails among them that members of bowling clubs have already reached such a state of perfection in morality as not to require any restraining influence. This is only one instance among many; but why this “thusness”?

“When self-esteem, or others’ adulation,  
Would cunningly persuade us we were something  
Above the common level of our kind,  
The grave gainsays the smooth complexioned flattery,  
And with blunt truth acquaints us what we are.”

Matthew Green, a writer in the early part of last century, instances the curative effects of the game on the mind, worth noting—

“To cure the mind’s wrong bias, spleen,  
Some recommend the bowling-green ;  
Some hilly walks ; all exercise ;  
Fling but a stone, the giant dies ;  
Laugh and be well”

This work, not being a manual for teaching the game, makes no pretence of being a guide to the art of bowling, or a *vade mecum* to the practised bowler ; yet we would advise the “uninstructed bowler” desiring to shine as a skilful exponent of the game, to do two things, viz., *join a club* and *implicitly obey the instructions of your “skip.”* The *precept* imparted during the *practice* of the game will do more for the player than the most elaborately printed information.<sup>1</sup>

A few valedictory remarks, and my pleasurable task is finished. First, let me record my thanks for the courtesy of Professor J. S. Blackie, Sir F. Leighton, P.R.A.; Mr. F. E. Cox, Mr. P. Macnaughton of Heriot’s Trust, Mr. William Guilford, Mr. William Watson, and others of my friends who have so kindly aided me with advice and assistance in the matter of facts and records. Then I would ask my readers to be lenient with errors of omission or commission, and should a future edition be demanded, I shall be pleased to add unrecorded facts or sketches germane to the subject of Bowls ; being fully sensible that there must be many interesting items worth noting, and that my work cannot satisfy all. Sir John Harrington, god-son of Elizabeth, wrote the following

<sup>1</sup> S.B.A. Rules, see page 93 appendix.

epigram regarding carping critics, which fits my humour, as the feast provided will be possibly more palatable to the bowler than the heaven-born literary genius—

“The readers and the hearers like my books  
But yet some writers cannot them digest;  
But what care I? for when I make a feast  
I would my guests should praise it, not the cooks.”

There is an old saying that “he who plays bowls must expect rubs.” This is most true regarding authors; but as this work is less of a literary character than a compilation of interesting facts—which is intended as an advance on anything that has preceded it in manual form—perhaps I may be spared, and given credit, at least, for good intention.

“Well, forward, forward; thus the bowl should run,  
And not unluckily against the bias.”

And may we be all deserving of Costard’s opinion, that

“He is a marvellous good neighbour, in sooth; and a very good bowler.”

The average bowler will be interested in the collection of songs and poems with which I conclude these rambling notes on “Ye Ancient Royal Game of Bowles.”

## POEMS AND SONGS.

### Parallel 'Twixt *Bowling* and *Prefерment*.<sup>1</sup>

PREFERMENT, like a game of boules,  
To feede our hope hath divers play ;  
Heere quick it runns, there soft it roules ;  
The betters make and shew the way.  
On upper ground, so great allies  
Doe many *cast* on their desire  
Some up are thrust and forc'd to rise,  
When those are stopt that would aspire.

Some whose heate and zeal exceed,  
Thrive well by *rubbs* that curb their haste,  
And some that languish in their speed  
Are cherished by some favour's blaste :  
Some rest in other's *cutting out*  
The fame by whom themselves are made ;  
Some fetch a *compass* farr about,  
And secretly the mark invade.

Some get by *knocks*, and so advance  
Their fortune by a boysterous aime :  
And some who have the sweetest chance,  
Their en'mies *hit* and win the game.  
The fairest *casts* are those that owe  
No thanks to fortune's giddy sway :  
Such honest men good *bowlers* are  
Whose own true *bias* cutts the way.

<sup>1</sup> William Stroad, in Justin Pagitt's *Memorandum Book*—see also Strutt.

Similitude between Life and the Game of Bowls.<sup>1</sup>

LIFE like the Game of Bowls, is but an end,  
 Which to play well, this moral verse attend.  
 Throw not your bowl too rashly from your hand,  
 First let its course by reason's eye be planned ;  
 Lest it rolls useless o'er the verdant plain,  
 Like heedless Life—that finishes in vain.  
 Know well your bias :—here the moral school  
 Scarce needs a comment on the bowling rule ;  
 Play not too wide, with caution eye your cast,  
 Use not extent of Green, or Life to waste :  
 Nor yet too straight,—in Life observe the same,—  
 The narrow-minded often miss their aim !  
 Bowling too short, you but obstruct the Green,  
 Like him who loiters on Life's public scene :  
 Whoe'er at Bowls—or Business causes strife,  
 Will rubs on Greens receive ;—and eke in Life :  
 One bowling trick avoid in moral play,  
 Ah, never—never block your neighbour's way !  
 These rules observ'd, a Man may play his game  
 On Bowling Greens—or thro' the World with fame.

The Earl of Eglinton.<sup>2</sup>

A BLESSING rest on Eglinton !  
 An' on his princely ha',  
 An' blessed be the memory  
 O' him that's noo awa'.  
 He greatly loved his fellow-men,  
 But saw a gap between,  
 An' closed it up, an' syne ilk class  
 Became ilk other's frien'.  
 O weel he liked to see a' roun',  
 As happy as could be,  
 An' oft at bowls, or on the ice,  
 He bore awa' the gree.

<sup>1</sup> Mitchell's *Manual*.<sup>2</sup> Mitchell's *Manual*.

He played the back han' or the fore,  
 But aye by boolers' law,  
 An' gentle folks an' semple folks,  
 He brought together a'.

He was indeed a nobleman,  
 A prince o' a' his kin',  
 An' weel he liked a game at bools  
 When summer days were fine.

**A Bowling Song.<sup>1</sup>**

THE golfers o' their game may boast,  
 And curlers glory when there's frost,  
 But I would hae ye drink a toast,  
 To Bowlers and to Bowlin'.

When gloomy winter takes its flight,  
 And summer comes sae warm and bright,  
 When nature's beauties charm the sight,  
 'Tis then we start the Bowlin'.

To Bowlers a' it's aye a treat,  
 When first upon the green we meet,  
 And that day it is labour sweet,  
 To work hard at the Bowlin'.

Then the skips, who a' our games direct,  
 And Bowlers who have won respect,  
 And they wi' care their rinks select,  
 To help them wi' their Bowlin'.

But when the matches are begun,  
 'There's aye a lot o' warm fun,  
 For whether the game is lost or won,  
 We aye enjoy the Bowlin'.

It's a treat to hear a skip implore—  
 “Noo, draw me this shot off the fore;  
 This end, I think we're sure to score.”  
 But a kittle game is Bowlin'.

<sup>1</sup> *Edinburgh Bowling Annual.*

For the rival skip his course does tak ;  
 He sees a sma' post on the back,  
 So he roars out, "Just run the Jack,"  
 And show our freends pure Bowlin'.

But great good humour aye is seen  
 When Bowlers meet upon the green ;  
 For pride and selfishness, I ween,  
 Should ne'er be found at Bowlin'.

And when each Match is at an end,  
 A happy hour or two we spend,  
 When yin an' a', ye may depend,  
 Discuss the past day's Bowlin'.

Then, let each true hearted Bowler pray,  
 That he may live to see the day,  
 When man the world ower may play,  
 At the glorious game o' Bowlin'.

The Members of the Shipley Bowling Club, having  
 competed for a fine salmon, the following address was  
 delivered on the occasion—July, 1878.

**The Solway Salmon to the Victorious Bowler.**

I'M sent to thee, from Scotia's rock-bound shore,  
 In scaly vestments, bright as burnished shield ;  
 My ocean-bed is left for evermore,  
 Thy slave to be—thou victor of the field !  
 At Neptune's tournaments, I've seen the dance,  
 Where beauteous pebbles crowd his caves in shoals,  
 To sea-waves music, such as nymph's entrance—  
 Yet this were joyless to your game of bowls.  
 Old ocean's green is not a *Green* like this !  
 His billows rolling seem to bowls but tame :  
 Nor sea, nor earth, has shown me aught of bliss,  
 Till closing life now brings me to your game.  
 My hand I give thee ! (call it not a fin !)  
 My body take ! taste both the thick and thin.

J. W. F.

W. W. Mitchell, the author of the following song, at the age of 76 played four hours on the Willowbank green, at Christmas, 1879.

*A Bowler's Song.*

THE bools row—the bools row,  
Your ain as well as mine,  
O bonnily the bools row,  
When summer days are fine.

O gin the wins wad stop their blaw,  
O gin the sun wad shine,  
O gin the snaw wad melt awa',  
An' summer come again.

For then wad the bools row,  
An' games be lost an' won,  
An' clubs contend, an' tournaments  
Be talked of, or begun.

Then let us pray for summer suns,  
To mak' the grass grow green,  
That we may ha'e some bonnie runs,  
Wi' fremmit or wi' frien'.

For bonnily the bools row,  
When summer days are fine,  
O bonnily the bools row,  
Since ever I ha'e min'.

To guard, or rake, or ride, or draw,  
The back han' or the fore,  
Is then essayed, 'mid loud guffaw  
O that thrice happy corps.

But winter comes wi' chillin' breath,  
An' leaves begin to fa',  
Which brings to a' a thocht o' death—  
For man is like the snaw.

Ah ! some no more the grass will tread,  
 Nor ever again will play !  
 While others lively, look ahead,—  
 “Thus runs the world away.”

Yet I ha'e played on Christmas day,  
 Before gaun hame to dine,  
 An' never looked on better play,  
 When summer days are fine.

Thus summer's sun, an' winter's win',  
 Ha'e been alike to me,  
 O may they be alike to a',  
 Until the day they dee.

January, 1880.

W. W. M.

The following are portions of two racy versifications, relating contests for the Rosebery Cup.

*The “Rosebery” Tournament;*

OR, THE BATTLE OF THE CLUBS, 25TH JUNE, 1891.

BY R. FLEMING.

‘TWAS “the Rosebery Day,”  
 As Rinksmen would say,  
 And Bowlers were early afoot, man,  
 And Robert the chiet  
 With his annual “brief,”  
 Was ready all men’s tastes to suit, man.

To Michael’s famed city,<sup>1</sup>  
 Let’s follow the “Kitty,”  
 Says Jeffrey to Hill with great glee, man,  
 The men of Uphall,  
 Before us must fall,  
 Ere the fruits of the conquest we pree, man.

<sup>1</sup> Linlithgow.

The commander-in-chief,  
In terms of his "brief,"  
With a smile Jeffrey hail'd at the gate, man,  
With face all aglow,  
And nice graceful bow,  
Said, "Your presence we all here await, man."

Then after one sip  
Of nectar, each skip  
Stepp'd on to the field with light heart, man ;  
With a shout from afar,  
The last tug of war  
Was one fierce and sharp bloodless fight, man.

Uphall, to a man,  
Fought as only they can,  
But the work of the day told its tale, man  
They'd borne all the brunt  
Of the skirmish and hunt,  
From Lithca to sweet Armadale, man.

They fought—yes, and fell,  
But hist'ry will tell,  
The battle was not all in vain, man ;  
Tho' losing the cup,  
They made grand runners-up,  
And we'll hear of their prowess again, man.

### Battle of Uphall.

1889.

BY JAMES GARDNER.

*Music—“The Whale.”*

“TWAS in the merry month of June,  
The twenty-seventh day,  
When all the bowlers of our shire  
Did meet in friendly play, brave boys—  
With a fal-lal, etc.

## ROUND THE FINAL.

In deidly feud, the final round  
 Begeud 'tween owls and daws;<sup>1</sup>  
 The shouts o' war, I'm share ye'd heard  
 The length o' Haddie's Wa's, brave boys, etc.

When mirkness fell upon the plain,  
 And nane could see his bowls;<sup>2</sup>  
 The Lithca Daws fell fast beneath  
 The cat-e'd Bathgate owls, brave boys, etc.

Aft Bennie tried the callipers,  
 Likewise the whinlestrae,  
 And Jamieson did creak till hairse,  
 And try and turn the day, brave boys, etc.

Their anxious skip did wave the flag  
 And cheered their spirits up;  
 But, ah! hoo feckless is the dose  
 When death is in the cup, brave boys, etc.

Our Kirsopp and Rob-Roy's son  
 A pair o' gallant chiels,  
 And douchty Dan, the champion brave  
 Did fecht like perfect deils, brave boys, etc.

At last the final end approached  
 And crooned our club wi' joy;  
 And fast, in circuit, shouther high,  
 They carried bold Rob-Roy, brave boys, etc.

And Gen'ral Wilson, great o' soul,  
 Conferred on all a boon;  
 He saw the cup was very odd,  
 And he's supplied the spoon,<sup>3</sup> brave boys, etc.

<sup>1</sup> "Bathgate Owls" "Linlithgow Jackdaws."

<sup>2</sup> The match was finished in the dark about 11 p.m.

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix—"Rosebery Cup and Toddy-Ladle."

The Bathgate owls lamented sair  
 They could not fill the cup,  
 For at the battle's end, they found  
 The canteen was shut up, brave boys, etc.

The lack o' generosity  
 Ne'er ranks among our sins,  
 So, next year, we shall prime the cup  
 Before the war begins, brave boys, etc.

*Humanum Est Errare.*

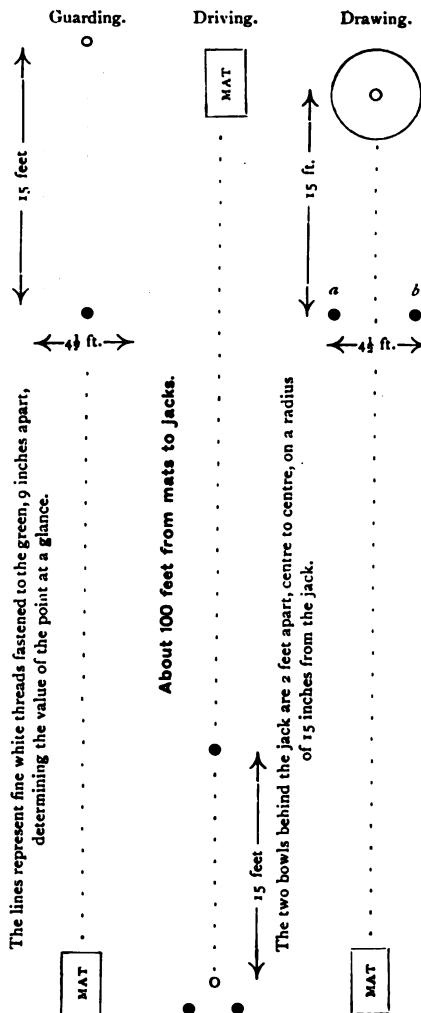
A SATIRE.

SOME men doe carpe, who knowe no joye—  
 Raile at ev'ry pleasure ;  
 To see an infant withe a toye,  
 Painis them beyond measure.  
 The austere hyp'crite standis aloofe  
 And mutteris “fooles, fooles, fooles”  
 And sayes he sees ye cloven hoose  
 Yn alle who playe at Boules.  
 Ye bowler stille enjoyes his sporte,  
 And heedeth not ye sneere,  
 That life's made up, to hym, of nought  
 But skittels, and of beere.



## APPENDIX.

## THE POINTS GAME (REVISED).



The game may be played on one, two, or more rinks. The threads not interfering with drawing or driving. Flat-headed nails may be used as centres.

Bowls marked ●; jacks marked ○.

THE game may consist of any number of shots; 10 or 12 each at guarding, drawing, and driving being the usual thing—half played from the back, and half from the fore-hand.

An Umpire or Marker should be appointed to each rink, to declare the value of the shot the moment the bowl comes to a rest; and record the same in a book, also on the players' cards, as a check. He shall direct the order of play, and in all cases his decision shall be final.

**GUARDING.**—Should a bowl come to rest anywhere in the threads, on the side from which the bowl was played, it counts 3 for the inside, 2 the middle, and 1 the outside. The bowl shall be counted *in* if it overlaps the line, and though it should cross the centre line, and not clear it, it must count 3.

**DRAWING.**—The bowl must pass clear of the bowls *a* and *b* on the outside, and rest within 1 foot of the jack, to count 3; within 2 feet, to count 2; and 3 feet, to count 1. Circles drawn round the jack will simplify matters. Bowls that overlap are *in*.

**DRIVING.**—The guard must be cleared by the bowl, and if it carries the jack through and follows between the two back bowls—clearing the 3 feet circle—without removing them, it counts 3; if it passes between jack and bowl on the hand it is played from, without removing the bowl, it counts 2; if it removes the back bowl on the hand it is played from, it counts 1.

**The jack must be replaced if moved.**

One or more bowls may be used, but all the players must have the same number, and no change of bowl must take place after the game is started.

TIES may be decided by playing 2 shots each, guarding, drawing, and driving.

## THE "H. J. D." GAME.

THIS game was instituted in Dunoon Green in 1890, and carried to a successful issue, in a single-handed contest.

Indiscriminate fast play, *riding* "jack or bowl" on the slightest pretext, often favouring the unskilful player—especially in single-handed contests—demanded a remedy, and the writer suggested the following, which found much favour—

It consists of a penalty imposed upon the player who plays his or his opponent's bowls into the ditch—though he is not prevented from *riding*, if he thinks proper.

If the player's bowl *touches the jack en passant*, this penalty is not imposed.

If a player  *nominates a particular bowl* as the object of his play, and *succeeds in striking it*, the penalty is not imposed.

The penalty :—Each bowl put in the ditch by a player to count one to his opponent, whether the bowl be his own or his opponent's—always provided the player's bowl did not touch the jack or the bowl nominated.

A skilful player sure of his cast will not be deterred from "riding," whereas the unskilful, haphazard player who trusts to the chapter of accidents is sure to suffer for his temerity.

## LIST OF MEMBERS, WILLOWBANK B.C., FOR 1836.

*The first four names are respectively the President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Champion; and the first eight are Directors.*

Hon. A. Johnstone, M.P.	Jas. Walker.	Jno. Leadbetter.
John Whitehead.	Jas. Wingate.	Allan Clark, Jun.
Thos. Ovington.	Wm. Wingate.	Henry Inglis.
And. Milne.	John Galbraith.	Wm. Gibson.
Gavin Walker.	Jas. Paterson.	Alex. Miller.
Alex. Hastie.	Alex. Giffen.	Wm. White.
A. MacDowal.	Geo. Stevenson.	Wm. Black.
John Walker.	Matt. Pearce.	Alex. Dennistoun.
Wm. Jamieson.	Alex. Brown.	Jno. Freeland.
Alex. Kay.	Wm. Hamilton.	Arch. Harvey.
John Bartholomew.	Wm. Dalgleish, Jun.	Wm. Mathieson.
Jas. Dalgleish, Jun.	Thos. Brown.	Robt. Paterson.
H. Brown.	Wm. Steel.	James Smith.
John Gordon.	Dun. Smith.	Wm. Orr.
G. W. Rainey.	Geo. Hunter.	J. Ronald, Jun.
Alex. Wingate.	Wm. Watson.	David Brand.
Hugh Morrison.	Walter Lees.	Arch. Glen.
Jas. Drummond.	Ed. Langland.	Jno. Walker, Jun.
Robt. Walker, Jun.	Wm. Snell, Jun.	Wm. Morrison.
Jas. S. Sillars.	Alex. Morrison.	Jas. Jamieson.
Jas. Paul.	Robt. Hutcheson.	Wm. Bankier.

## BOWLING CLUBS IN EXISTENCE BEFORE 1850.

Albany,	1833,	Glasgow.	Kilmarnock,	1740,	Kilmarnock.
Ardgowan,	1841,	Greenock.	Kingston,	1850,	Glasgow.
Ardrossan,	1842,	Ardrossan.	Maybole,	1848,	Maybole.
Ayr,	1834,	Ayr.	Moffat Baths,	1827,	Moffat.
Claremont,	1840,	Edinburgh.	Newton-Stewart,	1831,	Newton-Stewart.
Denny,	1845,	Denny.	Partick,	1845,	Glasgow.
Dumbarton,	1838,	Dumbarton.	Peebles,	1829,	Peebles.
Falkirk,	1838,	Falkirk.	Priorscroft,	1839,	Paisley.
Galston,	1850,	Ayr.	Rothesay,	1846,	Rothesay.
Girvan,	1841,	Girvan.	Thornhill,	1839,	Thornhill.
Govan,	1847,	Glasgow.	Troon,	1820,	Troon.
Haddington,	1709,	Haddington.	Wellerfoot,	1835,	Glasgow.
Hamilton,	1841,	Hamilton.	Wellmeadow,	1849,	Paisley.
Hillhead,	1849,	Glasgow.	Whitevale,	1837,	Glasgow.
Hillton,	1849,	Dundee.	Wigtown,	1830,	Wigtown.
Irvine,	1849,	Irvine.	Willowbank, about 1816,		Glasgow.

GLASGOW B.C.A.—CLUB TOURNAMENT.  
LIST OF WINNERS.

Year.	First Prize.	Second Prize.	Year.	First Prize.	Second Prize.
1860	Wellcroft		1876	Shawlands	Govan
1861	Wellcroft		1877	Burnbank	St. Vincent
1862	Kingston		1878	Govan	Bridgeton
1863	Wellcroft		1879	Huchesontown	Bellahouston
1864	Kingston		1880	Hillhead	Huchesontown
1865	St. Vincent		1881	Polmadie	Whitevale
1866	Albany		1882	Kingston	Shawlands
1867	St. Vincent		1883	Shawlands	Willowbank
1868	Bridgeton		1884	Kingston	Huchesontown
1869	Albany		1885	Willowbank	{ Belvidere and
1870	Whitevale		1886	Huchesontown	{ Partick equal
1871	Hillhead		1887	Willowbank	Wellcroft
1872	Bellahouston		1888	Polmadie	Kingston
1873	Huchesontown		1889	Huchesontown	Huchesontown
1874	Hillhead		1890	Hillhead	Shawlands
1875	Huchesontown		1891	Huchesontown	Pollokshaws
					Albany

1892.—“THE GLASGOW CUP,” first played for and won by Willowbank ;  
Kingston being Second. See page 59.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS—GLASGOW V. AYRSHIRE.  
 EGLINTON CUP MATCHES, SINCE INSTITUTION.

Year.	No. of Ranks.	Majority for		Winning Club.	Year.	No. of Ranks.	Majority for		Winning Club.
		Glas-	Ayr-				gow.	shire.	
1855	..	..	..	} see page 63	1875	94	364	..	Queen's Park
1856	..	..	..		1876	84	..	333	Girvan Victoria
1857	43	335	..	Wellcroft	1877	99	267	..	Albany
1858	52	44	..	Hillhead	1878	94	..	415	Dalry
1859	50	426	..	Kingston	1879	111	59	..	Partick
1860	53	..	173	Ardeer	1880	103	..	355	Dalzellington
1861	56	405	..	Kingston	1881	110	63	..	Govan
1862	57	..	149	Girvan Victoria	1882	114	..	477	Ardeer
1863	62	425	..	St. Rollox	1883	107	227	..	Queen's Park
1864	64	..	130	Ardeer	1884	108	..	478	Galston L. W. M.
1865	74	435	..	Calton	1885	111	152	..	Bellahouston
1866	94	89	..	Kingston	1886	109	..	630	Girvan Victoria
1867	82	170	..	Govan	1887	101	..	56	Kilmarnock W. N.
1868	83	..	180	Kerelaw	1888	105	..	382	Saltecoats
1869	86	281	..	Pollokshields	1889	105	..	122	{ Kilmarnock and
1870	88	..	159	Ladeside, Kilbirnie	1890	109	..	372	{ Cumnock equal
1871	88	56	..	Whitevale	1891	115	12	..	Cumnock
1872	89	..	306	Ardeer	1892	..	..	..	Albany
1873	91	428	..	Hillhead				623	Dalry
1874	94	..	192	Largs					

“ TAIT CHAMPION TROPHY.”

Year.	Winner.	Club.	Year.	Winner.	Club.
1888	John M'Bean	West End	1891	Geo. W. Wilson	Ardmillan
1889	John Foreman	Archers Hall	1892	John Forman	Archers Hall
1890	A. W. Hamilton	Lutton Place			

## LIST OF BOWLING TROPHIES.

“BALFOUR TROPHY.”—A prize presented by Mr. J. B. Balfour, Q.C., M.P., in 1882, to the clubs in Clackmannan. At the request of the bowlers it varies in form, and becomes the property of the winning club. Alloa East End Club won it, in the form of a silver cup, in 1886-7-8 and 9.

“BARCLAY CUP.”—Presented in 1885 to Forfarshire and District clubs, for competition at their Annual Tournament, instituted 1879, by Mr. J. W. Barclay, M.P. Money prizes, subscribed for by competing clubs, are added.

“BOLTON CUP.”—Presented by Mr. J. C. Bolton, Carbrook, M.P., in 1888, to the Stirling County Association for competition at their Annual Club Tournament. The winning club also receive gold and silver medals from the S.C.A.

“BORDER TOURNAMENT PRIZES.”—Instituted 1872. Each player in the first and second winning rinks receiving a pair of silver-mounted bowls, and each player in third and fourth rinks, an ivory-mounted pair. *No money prizes.*

“CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN CUP.”—A rink prize for the Stirling *versus* Dunfermline Clubs’ Annual Competition. Presented by Mr. Campbell-Bannerman in 1875.

“COWAL CUP.”—Presented by Mr. D. H. Macfarlane, M.P., in 1892, to clubs in Sandbank, Kirn, Dunoon, and Innellan, for competition annually. Dunoon won.

“DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY CHALLENGE CUP.”—Purchased by public subscription, and first played for in 1872. Twelve clubs engage in the contest—six a-side—the cup going to the “highest up” club on the winning side. Gold medals also go to the “highest up” rinks on either side, to be played down for on the home green. The cup weighs 127 ounces, and cost £70.

“EDINBURGH AND LEITH RINK TROPHY.”—Instituted 1878. Annual competition among the associated clubs, the winning rink players receiving each the Association badge.

“TAIT CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY.”—Presented to E. and L.A.B. Clubs, in 1889, by Mr. William Tait, Rosehall Cottage, Dalkeith Road, who, a looker-on at the first contest the previous year, offered to provide a trophy, value of twenty guineas. The selection of the design was left with the Association, see sketch on page 60.

“M’EWAN TROPHY.”—For competition on the Edinburgh Public Bowling-Greens under civic supervision. It was presented by Mr. M’Ewan, M.P., in 1892.

“MIDLOTHIAN ASSOCIATION TROPHY.”—Played for annually among the associated clubs. It is a silver cup. The players in the “highest up” rink of the winning club each receive the Association badge.

“ROSEBERY CHAMPION CUP.”—Presented in 1890, by Lord Rosebery, to the M.B.C.A., to be competed for by the champions of the associated clubs.

“ EGLINTON CUP,” “GOLD BOWL,” and “SILVER BOWL”—See page 62.

“ EGLINTON PLATE.”—Presented by the fourteenth Earl of Eglinton, to be competed for by the eight highest up Ayrshire Clubs in the Eglinton Cup Match in 1873. Won by Kilwinning. Played down for and ultimately won by Mr. Adam Young, who became its possessor.

“FIFESHIRE RINK TROPHY.”—A silver cup. Tournament instituted in 1879. Money prizes to each player in the first and second rinks.

“**GLASGOW ASSOCIATION PRIZES.**”—A little ambiguity exists as to the nature of these prizes in the past. It was originally called, in 1860, the “*Glasgow Prize Cup*” Match, one prize only; a then new element being introduced, of clubs competing on neutral greens. But Mitchell says, “Since 1864, instead of only one cup being competed for, a *first* and *second* prize has been awarded.” Brown’s *Manual* reads—“The prizes are awarded in money, but it is understood that the winner shall invest the amount in purchase of a permanent trophy of their victory”;—the money prizes are tabulated by both Mitchell and Brown, and don’t agree “at all, at all!”

“**GLASGOW CUP.**”—A trophy of artistic value, presented to the associated clubs of Glasgow by Sir John Muir, Bart., of Deanstoun, in 1892, for competition annually. See sketch on page 59.

“**LAWRIE CHAMPION BOWLS.**”—Presented by R. G. Lawrie, Glasgow, to be played for by champions of the Associated Glasgow Clubs in 1893.

“**GAIRDNER SILVER BOWL.**”—Presented by Mr. Gairdner of Auchens, to be played for by New Kilmarnock *versus* Dundonald. Contest started in 1860. The highest rink of winning club playing single-handed for its possession for the year.

“**HADDINGTON TROPHY.**”—Presented by the Earl of Haddington, and competed for by the clubs in the County of Haddington. Won three years in succession by Tynningham Club, who retain it.

“**HADDINGTON COUNTY CUP.**”—Subscribed for by the county clubs in 1871, to replace the Earl’s trophy.

“**HADDINGTON JUBILEE CUP.**”—Subscribed for in 1887. Played for on Biel Green annually by county clubs. The second highest club receive a pair of bowls, to be played for single-handed among themselves.

“**HOZIER CUP.**”—A silver cup presented by Mr. J. C. Hozier, M.P., in 1891, to be competed for annually by clubs in the South Lanarkshire division of the county, and played on two neutral greens. The prize formerly was the “*ANSTRUTHER CUP*,” which was won by, and became the property of, the Wishaw Club in 1889. It was presented by Sir William C. Anstruther, Bart.

“**MASONIC CUPS.**”—The “*PEARCE*” and “*WILSON*,” competed for by Masonic Lodges in the Glasgow province, under the auspices of the P.G.L. Lodge; “*Clydesdale*,” No. 556, winning both in 1892.

“**ORR-EWING CUP.**”—Two cups bearing the name have been competed for by the associated clubs in Dumbartonshire, both the gifts of the county M.P. The first one, value £50, Brown’s *Manual* says, the Helensburgh bowlers were allowed to keep, because they had won it so often. Mitchell says that Garelochhead won it in 1878, and £5 added, “a young club, and not very numerous in its membership.” Sir A. Orr-Ewing, Bart., M.P., presented the present cup in 1879, so Mr. Brown says.

“**PARKER-SMITH CUP.**”—For competition annually among clubs in the Partick division of Lanarkshire. Mr. J. Parker-Smith, M.P., donor, in 1891.

“**RANKEILLOR CUP.**”—Presented in 1884 for annual competition between Kirkcaldy and St. Clair Clubs, by a double match on the two greens, aggregates to win. Mr. M. B. Nairn of Rankeillor, donor. The winning club play single-handed for its custody for a year.

“**RENFREWSHIRE COUNTY CUP.**”—A silver cup, presented by Sir M. R. Shaw-Stewart, Bart., in 1878, and instituted the county match. A money prize of £5 has been added by the competing clubs since 1884.

“**EAST RENFREWSHIRE CUP.**”—A silver cup, presented in 1890 by Mr. M. H. Shaw-Stewart, M.P. for that division of the county.

“**ROSEBERY CUP.**”—Presented by Lord Rosebery to the Linlithgow B.A., for competition at a rink tournament by the associated clubs. First played for in 1882. In 1889 the Kirkliston Club added a Toddy Ladle, made from wood of the Knights Hospitallers’ house in Linlithgow.

“**EAST STIRLINGSHIRE TROPHY.**”—A cup presented by Mr. D. Mitchell, Millfield, Polmont. Won by Bonnybridge three times and retained. Replaced by another cup in 1892 from the same gentleman, but must be won three years in succession before becoming the property of the winners. Some years ago a subscription cup was the trophy—won and retained.

“**TAYLOR CHAMPION BOWLS.**”—Presented by Mr. Thomas Taylor, Glasgow, in 1891. Confined to champions of the clubs forming the Glasgow Association.

The following interesting particulars are culled from Hodge’s *Annual*, Newcastle-on-Tyne:—

“**ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP.**”—Was purchased by subscription in 1884, in memory of “father” John Armstrong, whose idea, that *no bowl should count two yards from the jack*, is carried out in this competition. Played single-handed by Armstrong Park Club.

“**TEMPLE CHALLENGE MEDAL.**”—A silver medal, presented to Armstrong Park Club, in 1882, by Councillor Temple. Played for single-handed.

“**COWEN CHALLENGE CUP.**”—A silver cup, presented in 1884 to the Northumberland and Durham Public Parks B.C. Association, by Mr. Joseph Cowen, proprietor of the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*. A home-and-home match in 1884-5-6. In 1887 played for on neutral greens. In 1890 the Association clubs were divided into two divisions, the winners in each division to play the final.

“**SCOTT CUP.**”—Played for in the same way. J. G. Scott, donor.

“**DONKIN CUP.**”—A handsome silver trophy, purchased by the Northumberland Park Club, North Shields, in 1890, and is competed for annually—two bowls; 21 ends.

“**ELSWICK PARK CHALLENGE CUP.**”—Purchased by subscription in 1882. Value 30 guineas. Single-handed competition.

“**BENTICK CUP.**”—Presented to Elswick Park Club, in 1890, by Messrs. Ourbridge and G. Archibald. Single-handed competition.

“**ELSWICK PARK GOLD MEDAL.**”—Purchased from funds of West End Club, and contested for on the opening of their new green in 1881. Single-handed competition.

“**GEORGE CHALLENGE CUP.**”—Presented to Nuns’ Moor Park Club, in 1890, by Mr. Edward George. Single-handed competition, and must be won three times (twice in succession) before becoming the property of the competitor. It is a silver cup.

“**GILHESPY CUP.**”—Presented by Mr. George Gilhespy, in 1891, to Saltwell Park Club, Gateshead. Single-handed competition, carrying with it the captaincy of the club.

“**GUNN CHALLENGE CUP.**”—Presented to Walker Park Club by Mr. Daniel Gunn, in 1892. Must be won twice in succession, or three times in all, by the same player, before becoming absolutely his property.

"**LEAZES PARK CHALLENGE CUP.**"—Subscribed by members in 1882. A rink competition.

"**MONCRIEFF CUP.**"—Presented by Mr. R. P. Moncrieff, South Shields, for competition among clubs in North and South Shields annually; the first club to win it three times to retain it. First contest, 27th July, 1892.

"**OURBRIDGE BOWLS.**"—Presented to Brandling Park Club, in 1890, by Mr. J. M. Ourbridge. Became the property of Mr. R. Mills, he having fulfilled the conditions by winning them twice, in 1890-2.

"**ROKER PARK GOLD CHALLENGE MEDAL.**"—Presented to Roker Park Club, Sunderland, in 1889, by Mr. Johnson Thompson and friends. Annual single-handed two-bowl competition.

A single-handed two-bowl tournament is held annually under the auspices of the Northumberland and Durham Public Parks Bowling Association.

The two-bowl competition is not so common in Scotland as it seems to be about Northumberland and Durham, where the merits of this style of contest are fully recognised, as tending to greater accuracy in "drawing."

### SCOTTISH BOWLING ASSOCIATION.

An attempt was made to form a National Bowling Association on the lines of the Caledonian Curling Club in 1848, at a large Meeting of players, held in Glasgow, and presided over by the Hon. Alexander Hastie, M.P., President of the Willowbank Club. At a Special Meeting called in 1849, the idea was "fully discussed, and shown to be impracticable," and was abandoned. However, one result was achieved; the drawing up of a Code of Laws, regulating the game, by W. W. Mitchell, which, it is generally accepted, will be superseded by the following Rules of the game, as they have been framed by the S.B.A. to meet felt discrepancies in any general code, hitherto in use. The S.B.A. was instituted in 1892.

#### CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

I.—The Association shall be called **THE SCOTTISH BOWLING ASSOCIATION.**

II. —The Association shall consist of Bowling Clubs within the United Kingdom, having not less than Twenty Members each, and of Honorary Members elected by the Association as hereinafter provided.

III.—Applications by Clubs for admission to the Association shall be made to the Secretary not less than one month prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting, and such application shall give the name of the Club, and the names and addresses of its Office-bearers, and shall be accompanied by the Fee for admission. Clubs admitted to membership shall receive Certificates to that effect, signed by the Secretary. The Entrance Fee shall be Ten Shillings, and any Club failing to make this payment shall be disqualified from appearing, through its representative, at said Annual Meeting, and shall forfeit all the rights and privileges of membership, so long as such Fee remains unpaid. The subscription for the ensuing year shall be fixed by the Annual Meeting and shall be paid within One Month thereafter, subject to the same penalties as apply to non-payment of the Entrance Fee.

IV.—No Club shall be entitled to more than one representative, whose name and address shall be sent to the Secretary of the Association, not less than Twenty One days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.

V.—The Association shall have power to elect as an Honorary Member, any gentleman whose position among Bowlers or whose services in the interests of the game are such as to entitle him to this distinction, and who has been recommended by the Committee for election.

VI.—The first General Meeting of the Association shall be held in Glasgow, on Wednesday, 23rd Nov., 1892, and thereafter the Annual General Meeting shall be held in the last Monday of April in each year, when the place where the next Annual Meeting is to be held, shall be fixed. Ten days' notice shall be given of all Ordinary and Special Meetings, and Twenty Five shall be a quorum.

VII.—Any Club may send a requisition to the Secretary to call a Special General Meeting of the Association. Such requisition shall state the nature of the business to be brought forward, and upon its receipt the Secretary, with consent of the President, shall lay the same before the Members of Committee, appointed under Article VIII., who shall, if they deem the matter of sufficient importance, instruct the Secretary to call a Special General Meeting. The notice of the Meeting shall state the business for which it has been called, and no other business shall be transacted at such Special Meeting.

VIII.—At the First General Meeting and thereafter at each Annual Meeting the Association shall elect from the Members a President, Vice-President, and a Secretary and Treasurer. They shall, likewise, at the same time elect Fifteen Members, who, with the Office-bearers, shall form a Committee of Management, of whom Seven shall be a quorum, to transact on behalf of the Association, any business that may require attention during the year. The Committee shall have power to fill up any vacancy in their number, caused by death or resignation during the year.

IX.—The Association shall draw up and issue a Code of Rules of the Game, which shall be binding on all the constituent Clubs of the Association.

X.—Should any dispute arise as to the meaning or interpretation of any of the Association's Rules of the Game, or upon any point not covered by them, any one of the parties to said dispute may appeal to the Association. No appeals or references shall be entertained by the Committee, except in cases where both or all the Clubs concerned belong to the Association, or in personal disputes, where both individuals are Members of Clubs connected with it; such personal appeals must, however, be brought through a representative Member. The determination of all disputes so referred to the Association shall be left for decision to the Committee appointed under Article VIII. Notice of Appeal shall be given in writing to the Secretary, and such notice shall be accompanied by a full statement of the matter in dispute. The Secretary, with the consent of the President, shall thereupon call a meeting of the Committee for the settlement of the question, and at such meeting parties may be heard (one only on each side, in their own defence), provided that course be deemed necessary or expedient by the Committee. The Committee may remit the examination of any case to a Sub-Committee of Three Members. Every such Sub-Committee shall make to the Secretary, in writing, a full report, signed by them, which shall be laid before the Committee. So soon as the Committee have pronounced their decision, it shall be intimated by the Secretary to all parties concerned, and such decision shall be final.

XI.—The Secretary shall keep a record of all the business transacted at General and Committee Meetings. At each Annual Meeting he shall submit a report of the proceedings since the previous meeting, and as Treasurer he shall submit a full account of his receipts and disbursements for the previous year, duly audited by Two Members of the Committee appointed for the purpose.

XII.—The Association may adopt whatever measures it may deem expedient to foster and promote the practice of the game, and to ensure its due regulation.

XIII.—No alteration of, or addition to, the Constitution and Rules of the Association, or the Rules of the Game, shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting, and a month's notice shall be given in writing to the Secretary, setting forth in full such proposed alteration or addition, which shall be stated in the notice of business for the Meeting.

## LAWS OF THE GAME OF BOWLS.

AUTHORIZED BY THE SCOTTISH BOWLING ASSOCIATION, 24TH APRIL, 1893.

### I.—Rinks or Divisions of the Green.

1. The green shall be divided into spaces, called rinks, about 20 feet in width, numbered consecutively, the centre of each rink being marked on the bank at each

end by a pin or other device, and the four corners of the rink by pins driven into the ditch. The side boundary of the rink shall stretch from bank to bank. [To prevent disputes, it is recommended that the pins at the opposite ends of the rink should be connected by a linen thread drawn tight on the surface of the green ; and that, where practicable, the boundary pins of an outside rink be placed at least two feet from the side-ditch.]

2. When a match is to be played, the numbers of the rinks should be put into a bag or other receptacle, and drawn at the green by the skips or their representatives.

3. Ordinary games may be played, without having recourse to drawing, on a rink mutually agreed upon.

## II.—Bowls—Size and Bias.

1. No bowl shall be played which exceeds  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches in circumference, or which has a less bias than the Standard Bowl adopted by the Association.

2. Any bowl to which objection is taken shall be tested by comparison with a Standard Bowl of the Association, bearing the Association's stamp.

In the case of a club match or competition the test shall be applied at the distance of 32 yards by two referees appointed by the parties, and if the referees disagree, they shall appoint an oversman. In the event of a bowl being declared of a less bias than the Standard, the further use of it in that club match or competition shall not be allowed.

In the case of a tournament the bowl or bowls objected to by an opponent shall, at the conclusion of the game, be taken possession of by the secretary of the tournament, who shall have the same forthwith tested by two of the *umpires of the tournament* who are not members of the same club as either of the parties, and who, if they cannot agree, shall call in another of the umpires, who must also be a neutral person, to determine whether the objection is frivolous ; but if there be reasonable ground for doubt, the bowl or bowls shall at once be sent to one of the officers of the Association to be tested by him. The officer shall test and return without delay all bowls thus sent to him, and shall also send to the secretary of the tournament a written report of the result of the test. The decision of the oversman or officer shall be final. The objector shall lodge with the secretary of the tournament the sum of two shillings and sixpence to cover the expense of testing, which sum shall be returned to him if his objection be sustained, and in that case the secretary of the tournament shall recover said fee from the owner of the bowl or bowls before they are returned to him ; and the competitor who used them shall be disqualified, and his opponent held as having won the tie.

## III.—Size of the Jack.

The jack shall be about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter.

## IV.—Conditions of a Game.

1. A game may consist of any number of shots or heads, or may be played for any length of time, as previously agreed upon.

2. When a match consists of more than one rink on each side, the total scores of the respective parties shall decide the contest.

## V.—Rink or Team of Players.

1. A rink or team shall consist of four players, each playing two bowls, and called respectively, according to the order in which they play, leader or lead, second player, third player, and skip or driver. Unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, it shall be determined by tossing or by playing a trial head, which party is to play first, the winner of the toss or the head to have the choice. In all subsequent heads the party which won the previous head shall play first. The leaders play their two bowls alternately, and so on, each pair of players in succession to the end. The order of playing shall not be changed after the first head has been played. No one shall play until his opponent's bowl has ceased to run ; a bowl so played may be stopped, and sent back to be played over again.

2. A bowl played by mistake shall be replaced by the player's own bowl.

3. When a player has played before his turn, the opponents may stop the bowl in its course, or allow it to remain when it comes to rest, or cause it to be played over again in its proper order. If it has moved either jack or bowls, the opponents shall have the power to cause the end to be begun anew.

4. No player shall change his bowls during the game, except with the consent of the opposing party.

5. If less than three players appear on either side, the game, so far as that rink is concerned, shall not proceed, and the rink with which this occurs shall be held as having *failed to appear*. In the absence of a single player, from one or both sides, the number of bowls shall be made up by the party or parties playing odd bowls. These odd bowls shall be played by the first and second players.

#### VI.—Skips or Drivers.

1. The skips shall have sole charge of their respective rinks, and their instructions must be obeyed by the other players.

2. The skip shall have the control of the play, but he may delegate this duty at any time to a substitute, who is usually the third player.

3. As soon as a bowl is greened, the director must retire behind the jack.

4. The players not engaged must stand *jack-high*, or behind the mat line.

5. The last player should remove the mat to the bank.

6. The two skips shall be judges of all disputed points, and, when they agree, their decision shall be final; if they cannot agree, the point shall be decided by the umpire previously appointed, whom failing, by a neutral person mutually chosen.

#### VII.—The Cloth or Mat.

1. Each player, when playing, shall stand with at least one foot on the mat.

2. The mat shall, at the first head, be placed by the leader of the party which is to play first, and in every subsequent head by the leader of the party which lost the previous head, but it shall be in the option of the winner of any head to have the mat placed where the jack lay, or at any point not less than two yards from the ditch, the mat in any case being placed in the centre of the rink. In starting play, or when the jack at the finish of a head lies in the ditch, or less than two yards from it, the mat shall be placed forward to about that distance. The mat shall not be moved till the head is finished, but if moved by accident, or inadvertently, it shall be replaced as near its original position as possible. It is recommended that the size of the mat be 22 by 14 inches or thereby.

#### VIII.—Throwing the Jack.

1. The leader of the party which is to play first shall throw the jack.

2. If the jack run into the ditch at the first throw in a game, it shall be placed two yards from it. If it be thrown into the ditch at any subsequent head, the opposing party shall have the option of throwing it anew, but not of playing first. When thrown less than two yards from the ditch, it should be moved out to that distance.

3. The jack shall be thrown not less than 25 yards from the mat, and if it run to one side it shall be moved across and placed in a straight line between the pins numbering the rinks. If it be thrown less than 25 yards, it shall be treated according to the rule applicable to a jack thrown into the ditch after the first head. (See Clause 2 of this Rule.)

4. If none of the foregoing rules have been transgressed, the jack shall be played to wherever it has been thrown; or, if moved, it must be by mutual consent of parties.

5. After having been played to, it shall not be touched or interfered with in any manner otherwise than by the effects of the play, until the result of the head has been determined.

#### IX.—Movement of the Jack and of Bowls.

1. If the jack be driven into the ditch, within the limits of the rink, its place shall be accurately marked, but it shall not be moved except by a toucher (see

Rule XII., Sec. 5). Should it be driven beyond the limits of the rink, that is to say, over the bank, or past the side-boundary of the rink by a bowl in play, *it shall be counted dead*; but if by a bowl *out of play*, it shall be restored to its place.

2. The foregoing rule as to being counted dead when driven beyond the limits of the rink shall likewise apply to bowls, whether they be *touchers* or not, but neither jack nor bowl shall be counted dead unless it be *wholly* outside the boundary.

3. A bowl when "dead" must be at once removed to the bank. Whenever the jack is "dead," the head must of necessity be played over again, and it shall in no case be counted a played head, not even though all the bowls have been played.

4. When the jack is driven to the side of the rink, but not beyond its limits, it may be played to on either hand, but any bowl played to it, which, when it has come to rest, lies wholly outside the rink, shall be counted dead.

#### X.—Jack or Bowl Rebounding.

1. Should the jack run against the bank and rebound on to the rink it shall be played to in the same manner as if it had never been moved. But a bowl similarly rebounding shall, *unless it be a toucher*, be counted dead.

#### XI.—Jack or Bowl Burned.

The term "burned" is applied to a jack or bowl which has been interfered with or displaced, otherwise than by a bowl in play.

##### JACK BURNED.

###### 1. *While in motion.*

When a jack while in motion is burned—(a) By one of the players, the opposing party shall have the option of letting it lie where it stops, and playing the head out, or of beginning the head anew. (b) By a neutral person, or by a bowl not in play, the parties shall come to an agreement as to its position, otherwise the head shall be begun anew.

###### 2. *While at rest.*

When a jack while at rest is burned—(a) By one of the players, the opposite party may replace it in its original position, or allow it to remain as moved. (b) By a neutral person, or by a bowl not in play, the parties shall come to an agreement as to its position, otherwise the head shall be begun anew.

##### BOWL BURNED.

###### 1. *While in motion.*

A. When a bowl during its original course, and before it has passed the jack, is burned—(a) By the party to whom it belongs, it shall be counted dead. (b) By an opponent, the player's party may claim to have it played over again, or to let it lie where it rests, or to have the head begun anew. (c) By a neutral person, it shall be played over again.

B. When a bowl which in its original course has passed the jack and, being still in motion is burned—(a) By the player's own party, it shall be counted dead, whether it has touched the jack or not. (b) By an opponent or a neutral person, the player's party may choose to let it lie where it comes to rest, or to have the head begun anew.

C. When a bowl which had come to rest is afterwards set in motion by a bowl in play, and while still moving, is burned—(a) By the party to whom it belongs, it shall be counted dead. (b) By an opponent, the party to whom it belongs may choose to let it lie where it comes to rest, or place it where they think it would probably have rested had it not been interfered with. (c) By a neutral person, it may be allowed to lie or be placed to the mutual satisfaction of parties; where agreement cannot be attained, the head shall be played over again.

###### 2. *While at rest.*

When a bowl while at rest is burned—(a) By either party, it may be replaced by the opposite party, or be allowed to remain where it lies. (b) By a neutral person, or by a bowl not in play, it should be replaced as near its original position as possible.

XII.—**Touchers.**

1. A bowl which touches the jack during its original course on the green is called a *toucher*, and counts in the game wherever it rests if on the rink, but should a bowl, after it has ceased running, fall over and touch the jack, *after another bowl has been delivered*, it is not to be accounted a toucher.

2. If a toucher run into the ditch when played, or be driven into the ditch during the course of the subsequent play, the place where it rests shall be marked, and it shall be allowed to remain in its place.

3. A toucher must be distinguished by a chalk or other distinct mark. Unless it be marked before the second succeeding bowl is delivered, it is not to be accounted a toucher. If the mark be not removed from the bowl before it is played in the succeeding head, it may be regarded as a *burned bowl*, and be removed to the bank.

4. If a bowl be moved *outwards* from the jack while being marked, it must remain as it is; but if moved *towards* the jack it must be restored to its original position.

5. Touchers may act on the jack or touchers in the ditch.

XIII.—**Ditchers.**

1. A bowl which does not touch the jack in its original course on the green, and runs against the bank or into the ditch, or is driven into the ditch by the effects of the play, is called a *ditcher*, and must be immediately removed to the bank.

2. Should a ditcher under any circumstances return to the green it must be replaced on the bank.

XIV.—**Possession of the Rink.**

1. As soon as each bowl stops running, the possession of the rink is transferred to the other party, time being allowed for marking a toucher.

2. The party in possession of the rink for the time being must not be disturbed or annoyed by their opponents.

XV.—**Result of Head.**

1. When the last bowl in a head stops running, half a minute shall elapse, if either party so require, before the shots are counted.

2. Neither jack nor bowls shall be touched until both parties are agreed as to the shots.

3. If a bowl requiring to be measured is resting on another bowl, which prevents its measurement, the best means available shall be taken to secure it in its position, whereupon the other shall be removed. The same course shall be followed when more than two bowls are involved.

4. No measuring shall be allowed until the head has been played out.

5. When, at the conclusion of a head, a tie for the first shot occurs, it shall, in a game of ends, be counted a played head.

6. The duty of keeping the score, and of announcing the state of the game at the end of each head, should be assigned to the second player.

XVI.—**Objects on the Green.**

1. Under no circumstances is any object to be laid on the green, or on a bowl, or on the jack; but it may be displayed in the hand for the guidance of the player.

XVII.—**Onlookers.**

1. Persons not engaged in the game must confine themselves to the banks, and preserve an attitude of strict neutrality.

The Scottish Bowling Association met in the Religious Institution Rooms, Glasgow, on 24th April, 1893, under the presidency of Dr. Clark, and the revised Laws of the game were passed. 174 clubs joined the Association. Mr. T. Taylor and Mr. R. G. Lawrie, bowlmakers, Glasgow, were appointed officers to make and test the *Standard Bowls* of the Association. The new rule, restricting the use of straight bowls, if enforced, will raise the quality of play, especially in single-handed matches.

## BOWLING CLUBS IN SCOTLAND.

## ABERDEENSHIRE.

Aberdeen.  
Aberdeen, Whitehall.  
Aberdeen, Northern.  
Drumoak.  
Huntly.  
Inverurie.  
Turriff.

## ARGYLLSHIRE.

Campbeltown.  
Dunoon, Argyll.  
Kirn.  
Inellan.  
Oban.  
Sandbank, Upper Cowal.

## AYRSHIRE.

Annbank.  
Ardeer.  
Ardrossan.  
Ayr.  
Ayr, Wattfield.  
Beith.  
Culzean.  
Cumnock.  
Dalry.  
Darvel.  
Dreghorn.  
Dundonald.  
Fairlie.  
Galston.  
Girvan.  
Girvan, Victoria.  
Hurlford.  
Irvine.  
Kilbirnie.  
Kilmarnock, London Road.  
Kilmarnock, Portland.  
Kilmarnock, Townholm.  
Kilmarnock, W. Netherton.  
Kilwinning.  
Largs.  
Mauchline.  
Maybole.  
Newmilns.  
Newton and Wallacetown.  
New Cumnock.  
Prestwick.  
Saltcoats.  
Stewarton.  
Tarbolton.  
Troon.  
West Kilbride.

## BANFFSHIRE.

Keith.

## BERWICKSHIRE.

Coldstream.  
Duns.  
Earlston.

## BUTESHIRE.

Millport.  
Rothesay.

## CAITHNESS-SHIRE.

Wick, St. Fergus.

## CLACKMANNANSHIRE.

Alla.  
Alla, East End.  
Alva.  
Clackmannan.  
Dollar.  
Tillicoultry.  
Tillicoultry, B.W.P.H.  
Tulliallan.

## DUMBARTONSHIRE.

Alexandria.  
Barremman.  
Beardsden.  
Clydebank.  
Cumbernauld.  
Dalmuir.  
Dumbarton.  
Dumbarton Rock.  
Dumbarton, Westonelee.  
Helensburgh.  
Kirkintilloch.  
Lenzie.  
Milngavie.  
Milngavie, West End.  
Milngavie, Allander.  
Renton.

## DUMFRIESSHIRE.

Annan.  
Dumfries.  
Langholm (Old).  
Langholm (New).  
Lochmaben.  
Lockerbie.  
Moffat.  
Moniaive.  
Sanquhar.  
Thornhill.

EDINBURGH.  
*Edinburgh and Leith Association Clubs.*

Archers' Hall.  
Ardmillan.  
Colbridge.  
Hillside.  
Linton Place.  
Mayfield.  
Meadow.  
Northern.  
Pilrig.  
Plewlands.  
West End.  
Lochend.  
Seafield.  
St. James.  
Summerside.

*Midlothian Association Clubs.*

Armiston.  
Balerno.

## Bonnyrigg.

Currie.  
Dalkeith.  
Musselburgh.  
Gorebridge.  
Inveresk Mills, Musselburgh.  
Juniper Green.  
Kirknewton.  
Lasswade.  
Loanhead.  
Polton.  
Portobello.  
Rosslyn.  
Springfield, Polton.

## Corstorphine.

Braid.  
Esk Mills, Musselburgh.  
Gilmerton, R. and R.  
Liberton.  
Penicuik.  
Stow.

## ELGINSHIRE.

Elgin.  
Forres.  
Lossiemouth.

## FIFESHIRE.

Auchtermuchty.  
Burntisland.  
Cupar.  
Dunfermline.  
Dunfermline, North.  
Kirkcaldy.  
Kirkcaldy, St. Clair.  
Kirkcaldy, Victoria.  
Kirkcaldy, Gallatown.  
Leslie.  
Leven.  
Lochgelly.  
Markinch.  
Newburgh.  
Newport.  
St. Andrews.

## FORFARSHIRE.

Arbroath.  
Arbroath, Abbey Park.  
Arbroath, Newgate.  
Brechin.  
Broughty Ferry, Broughty.  
Broughty Ferry, Broughty Castle.  
Broughty Ferry, Victoria.  
Carnoustie.  
Coupar Angus.  
Dundee, Balgay.  
Dundee, Baxter Park.  
Dundee, Dudhope.  
Dundee, Mayfield.  
Forfar, Cammore.  
Forfar, Victoria.  
Glamis.  
Kirriemuir.  
Montrose.

<b>HADDINGTONSHIRE.</b>	Hillhead. Hutesontown. Kingston. Partick. Pollokshaws. Pollokshields. Polmadie. Queen's Park. St. Rollox. St. Vincent. Shawlands. Springburn. Titwood. Tollcross. Wellcroft. Willowbank. Whitevale.	Johnstone, Lilybank. Kilbarchan. Kilmalcolm. Langbank. Lochwinnoch. Paisley, Abercorn. Paisley, Caledonia. Paisley, Charleston. Paisley, Ferguslie. Paisley, Inkerman. Paisley, Prior-croft. Paisley, Victoria. Paisley, Wellmeadow. Port-Glasgow. Renfrew.
<b>INVERNESS-SHIRE.</b>		<i>Cathcart, Kingston, Pollokshaws, Pollokshields, Polmadie, Queen's Park, Shawlands, Titwood, and Wellcroft are included in the Glasgow Association, being within the city boundary.</i>
<b>INVERNESS.</b>		
<b>KINCARDINESHIRE.</b>	Armadale. Bathgate. Borrowstounness. Kirkliston. Linlithgow. Queensferry. Uphall. Whitburn.	<b>ROXBURGHSHIRE.</b> Hawick. Hawick, Buccleuch. Jedburgh. Kelso. Melrose.
<b>KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.</b>	Nairn.	<b>SELKIRKSHIRE.</b> Galashiels, Gala. Galashiels, Abbotsford. Galashiels, Waverley. Selkirk. Selkirk, Ettrick Forest.
Auchencraven. Castle-Douglas. Creetown. Dalbeattie. Gatehouse. Kirkcudbright. Maxwelltown.		
<b>LANARKSHIRE.</b>	ORKNEY.	<b>STIRLINGSHIRE.</b> Bainsford. Bannockburn. Blaneford. Bonnybridge. Borestone. Bridge-of-Allan. Bridge-of-Allan, Airthrey Spa. Camerloch. Campsie. Denny. Falkirk, Comely Park. Falkirk, Adrian. Grahamston. Grangemouth. Kilsyth. Larbert. Polmont. Stenhousemuir. Stirling. Stirling, Guildhall. Stirling, Victoria Torrance.
Abington. Airdrie. Airdrie, C. W. Bellshill. Hoggar. Blackwood, Lesmahagow. Blantyre. Bothwell. Cambuslang. Carlisle. Coatbridge. Coatbridge, Victoria. Dalziel. Douglas. East Kilbride. Hamilton, Old. Hamilton, Caledon' an. Lanark, Waterloo. Lanark, Thistle. Larkhall. Lesmahagow. Motherwell. Newmains. Rutherglen. Shotts. Stonehouse. Strathaven. Uddingston. Wishaw.	Kirkwall. Innerleithen. Peebles.	
<i>Glasgow Association Clubs.</i>	PERTHSHIRE.	
Albany. Bellouston. Belvidere. Broomhill, Partick. Burnbank. Cathcart. Govan.	Aberfeldy. Almond Bank. Alyth. Blairgowrie. Bridge of Earn. Callander. Crieff. Coupang Angus. Deanstoun. Dounie. Dunblane. Dunkeld. Dunning. Gilmerton. Methven. Perth. Perth, Cal. Railway Servants. Perth, Kinnoull. Perth, West End. Pitlochry.	
	RENFREWSHIRE.	<b>WITSTOWNSHIRE.</b> Castle Kennedy. Bridge of Weir. Busby. Crossmyloof, Camphill. Elderslie. Elderslie, Wallace. Gourock. Greenock, Ardgowan. Greenock, Grosvenor. Greenock, Wellington Park. Johnstone.

A|S.













